

# Notes of two trips to California and return, taken in 1883 and 1886-7, by Solomon Mead

NOTES OF TWO TRIPS

TO

CALIFORNIA AND RETURN,

TAKEN IN

1883 and 1886-7,

BY

SOLOMON MEAD

WITH APPENDIX.

**Daily Notes of a Tour of Eight Weeks, taken by Solomon Mead, across the Continent in 1883.**

**May 3d, 1883.**

Left Greenwich, Ct., at 7 a.m., for New York city, where we are to join one of Cook's excursion parties, consisting of the following sixty-six persons: Edward Rowen, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Emily H. Rowen, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Clarissa Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.; Sylvanus W. Fisk, Morganville, N.Y.; Elisa Roberts, Moorestown, N.J.; Mrs. Roberts, Moorestown, N.J.; D. H. Beecher, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss E. L. Beecher, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mattison Koons, Camden, N.J.; Mrs. Koons, Camden, N.J.; Miss Koons, Camden, N.J.; Mrs. Dr. Jane E. Hunter, New York city; Mrs. C. R. Lockwood, New York city; Ethan Rogers, Asbury Park, N.J.; Mrs. Rogers, Asbury Park, N.J.; Andrew Findlay, New York city; W. E. Nichols, East Haddam, Ct.; Miss Mary C.

Nichols, East Haddam, Ct.; Mrs. E. W. Chaffee, Moodus, Ct.; J. G. Tunny, Edinburgh; W. J. Robinson, Moncton, N.B.; Mrs. Robinson, Moncton, N.B.; Philip J. Ritter, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Ritter, Philadelphia, Pa.; Charles F. Ritter, Philadelphia, Pa.; William H. Ritter, Philadelphia, Pa.; Charles Sweron, Frenchville, Me.; Chr. Rine, Lancaster, Pa.; Mrs. Rine, Lancaster, Pa.; M. Anker Heigaard, New Britain, Ct.; Benj. Haigh, Bradford, England; A. Wilt, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Wilt, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Mary F. Wilt, Philadelphia, Pa.; Alexander Strachan, Mrs. Strachan, Robert Montgomery, 4 Liverpool, England; R. M. Brown, Brooklyn, N.Y.; W. H. Sayre, Jr., Bethlehem, Pa.; W. H. Tantum, Trenton, N.J.; Joseph Stokes, Trenton, N.J.; David Taylor, Trenton, N.J.; Rev. R. S. Howland, D.D., New York; Rev. S. H. Weston, D.D., New York; F. G. Mariage, England; Thomas C. Else, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Else, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. A. H. Halberstadt, Pottsville, Pa.; Rev. Daniel C. Weston, D.D., New York; James Moore, Raleigh, N.C.; J. T. Monroe, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Monroe, Philadelphia, Pa.; Frank H. Hurd, Medina, N.Y.; Edward Davey, Medina, N.Y.; William Goulding, Solomon Mead, Greenwich, Ct.; S. C. Mead, Greenwich, Ct.; E. B. Woodhead, Huddersfield, England; Miss Woodhead, Huddersfield, England. The whole expense for each member for the entire trip, including conveyance, hotel charges, as described in the itinerary, is \$500. The distance to be traveled is nearly 9,000 miles. We took a parlor car from Jersey City, on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Only eighteen persons of the party started from this point. The balance of the party is to join us at different places between this and Washington. As the train speeds its way through New Jersey we find vegetation much farther advanced than in Greenwich. Trees are putting on their foliage and cherry trees are in blossom. The Pennsylvania Railroad may be considered as an excelsior road, for the roadbed is very straight and smooth, and the cars frequently run sixty miles an hour. This part of New Jersey is very level. The fences are built of posts and rails, some in the old style of worm-rail, some of boards, some of hedges, but I saw none built of stone. Many teams were busy plowing, but all were horse-teams. The landscape between New York and Philadelphia is much the same. Wilmington and Havre de Grace are cities of considerable importance. Outside a car factory in Wilmington we saw several new cars standing, with the name of the New York and 5 Brooklyn Bridge Company on them. We arrived at Washington, D.C., at 8.30 p.m., and found carriages waiting at the depot to convey us to the Ebbitt House. Room No. 18, on the second floor, was assigned us. It was a large room, opening

into a courtyard, and was octagon in shape. It contained two beds and was very well furnished. At about half-past nine p.m., we saw a military procession march by our hotel, led by a band of music. The procession was composed of white and colored companies.

### **May 4th.**

I was refreshed by a good night's rest, and on awakening was greeted by a pleasant morning. I anticipated a great deal of pleasure in revisiting the chief places of interest in the capital of our nation, having visited it previous to this once only, and that some twenty-six years ago. The first place that we saw was the Patent Office. From this we went to the Capitol, where we went into the Senate Chamber and that of the House of Representatives. The floor under the dome of the rotunda is made of marble slabs, two of which, near the centre and about sixteen feet apart, are so situated that if two persons stand, one upon each slab, and converse together, a very singular echo may be heard. After looking at the paintings and statuary which adorned the room, we ascended to a balcony near the top of the dome, between three and four hundred steps from the base of the building. The view from this balcony is very extensive and includes the city and surrounding country, together with the Potomac River. Some nine or ten avenues diverge from the Capitol into all parts of the city, like the spokes of a wheel. While viewing the city from this place we met with a Mr. C. Mayo of New York, whom we found to be a very agreeable companion for the remainder of the day. From here we had rather a warm walk to the White House, the thermometer being over 70 degrees. Entering at the front door we took seats in the East Room 6 to rest while we viewed the likenesses of distinguished men and the six large mirrors and the three magnificent chandeliers suspended from the lofty ceiling. After having refreshed ourselves with a drink of ice water we waited a short time at the suggestion of the person in charge of the house, and then were conducted first into the Blue Room, then into the Green Room, then to the Red Room, three rich and beautifully furnished private parlors. From thence we went into a room in which were beautiful plants, likenesses, etc. From the White House we walked down in the direction of the Washington Monument, which was commenced about thirty years ago. Passing through the beautiful grounds of the Capitol, we reached the lofty marble and granite shaft, now 340 feet high, which is still being carried up to its ultimate height, and is to be 555 feet. Immense quantities of large marble blocks

lie about the monument, ready to be hoisted to their lofty positions. From the monument we went to the establishment of the Government for making internal revenue stamps, greenbacks and bills for national banks. These are all completed here for use. They go through a great many hands in the process of making. Twelve hundred persons, male and female, are employed in the building. They all appeared to be very intently engaged in their work. We next visited the Government Agricultural Museum, which holds a place of the first importance among our national institutions. We next visited the Smithsonian Institute. The city of Washington has been greatly improved and beautified since the War of the Rebellion. Some of our European friends of the party remarked that it could not be equaled by any city except Paris. From this place we made our way back to the hotel and took our dinner and made preparations to leave the city on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. As I entered the depot I saw a metal star sunk in the floor, which marks the spot where President Garfield stood when he was shot by Guiteau. A marble slab was placed in the wall near by, with the inscription, "James Abram Garfield, July 3d, 1881." This brought vividly to mind the sad and tragic death of our beloved President. We left this city, wherein were such large and numerous parks, handsomely laid out and kept with great skill and taste, with feelings of regret. We left Washington about 6 p.m. Crossing the Potomac River we passed through the old town of Alexandria. At a short distance from this town we passed an extensive cemetery, in one part of which soldiers who died in the War of the Rebellion were buried. Their graves were in regular rows. At the head of each grave was a block of marble about a foot above the ground. All of these were uniform in size and height and were placed in straight rows. We passed near the battlefield of Bull Run. The country about here does not seem to be very good for agricultural purposes. About 10 o'clock the porter, with much dexterity and skill, prepared our berths and all retired. Stillness reigned within the cars, but the constant jar and noise of the wheels were distinctly heard by me throughout most of the night, this being my first experience upon sleeping cars.

### **May 5th.**

When the day dawned upon us we found ourselves among the mountains of West Virginia. Our road runs through a valley and by the side of a river, with mountains on either side, some of which rise to a considerable height and are of divers shapes. Occasionally a gorge runs into them. The

scenery is grand. The bed of the river is stony and the water is much disturbed by its rapid descent among and over the rocks. There is great similarity in this scenery for many, many miles. While the general course is the same, there are curvings and windings in the river, and here and there were huts or small habitations at the base of the mountains, built upon the river's edge, where a little space could be found, although it be very small. But sometimes cultivation is extended up the side of the 8 mountain to the extent of perhaps an acre or more of ground, every inch of which seemed to be utilized by these simple dwellers. The shore, in places, is lined with driftwood, brought down by Spring freshets. We have now advanced far down the valley, where it widens somewhat, and have come to a place called Kanahwa Falls, West Virginia, at which place we breakfasted at a hotel about 9 o'clock. Soon after we took the cars and sped down the valley, where we saw increasing signs of improvement in many respects. We saw how coal was brought out of the mines. About one-third up the side of the mountain, some two or three hundred feet above the river, was an opening like a door, from which cars of coal rolled out every two or three minutes. The car ran rapidly down a track on the side of the mountain until it reached a screen, on which it was dumped, and from which it ran into a spout which conveyed it into a car standing upon a switch ready to receive it. At the same time the loaded car descended an empty car was drawn up. How far into the bowels of the mountain the miners were at work did not appear, but one thing was certain, it was brought out very rapidly and in great quantities. Scows and flat boats were also receiving it in the same way at various other places on the river. This work of mining and transporting the coal was carried on at different places along the railroad for many miles, even after we passed into the State of Kentucky. We saw many log houses in this part of Kentucky. They had no glass windows, and the chimneys were built outside at one end. They were only one story in height and small in size. The occupants seemed to be contented and happy, with healthy-looking children about them. In the mountains of West Virginia and Kentucky the railroad ran through numerous tunnels. As we pass on we see evident signs of a richer soil, with large oak trees in the forests. We are now in what is called the Blue Grass Section of the State of Kentucky. 9 This grass grows spontaneously and takes its name from the color of the lime rocks underlying the earth. This grass everywhere indicates an excellent soil. Farms of excellent cultivation are everywhere in view. We passed through Winchester, made historic by Sheridan's famous ride, and reached Lexington about 4

p.m., where we found dinner awaiting our arrival. We observed there many people, both white and colored, well formed and enterprising in appearance. After dinner we resumed our journey toward Louisville, at which place we arrived about 10 p.m., where we found a large and comfortable room assigned us. After tea we retired.

### **May 6th.**

The next morning, being the Sabbath, we attended a Baptist Church and listened to a good sermon, delivered quite rapidly, but with much earnestness. In the afternoon we walked down to the Ohio River, where we observed a ferry plying between Jefferson, on the Indiana shore, and this place. The height to which the Ohio River rose last Spring was pointed out to us, and it now seems almost incredible that such a height could have been reached. Great damage was caused by the freshets. Dust and smoke, caused by the burning of soft coal, are disadvantages to the South and West generally. They not only affect the air, but give to buildings, sidewalks and almost everything that they come in contact with a dark, dingy and dirty appearance.

The hotel, the Galt House, at which we are stopping, is one of the finest in this city, and perhaps can hardly be equaled in all the South. It was built in 1869 at a reputed cost of \$1,500,000.

### **Monday, May 7th.**

In the morning we visited one of the markets, and I bought a cane for myself and one for Cristy. At 12.45 p.m. we left our hotel in three carryalls, with four horses each, for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Depot, to visit the Mammoth Cave. It was a genial and jolly party. The 10 first part of our journey lies through a flat and poor country, but after passing up a grade of some ninety feet to the mile, and through a tunnel, we reach a much better region, with greatly improved roads and buildings. We reached Cave City, the nearest railroad point to the cave, about 4 o'clock p.m., which place, I think, is about eighty miles from Louisville, where we found several stages and other vehicles waiting to take us to the Cave House, about nine miles distant. So we crowded inside and outside the stages, which were well packed. Several persons not of our party crowded in likewise. After considerable arranging and some waiting, we set out upon our ride. The route

lay over the roughest road I ever traveled. Still all were good-natured and jovial. After jolting, shaking and sometimes nearly upsetting for about three hours, we reached the Cave House at 7.30 p.m., and after partaking of our supper we made preparations for visiting the cave. Each gentleman was provided with a lamp to carry while in the cave. After walking some forty or fifty rods from the hotel we reached the entrance to the cave, near which is the grave of its discoverer. He found it while hunting game, which he followed there to its retreat. We then descended a stone stairway down a forbidding-looking rocky passage to a no less forbidding-looking entrance. After descending through the small aperture and following a subterranean passage, we came to an iron door which is kept locked. This our colored guide, William, unlocked, and immediately after we had entered, locked. We again then followed him, lamps in hand, and soon descended another stone stairway. The depth of the cave at its lowest point below the surface is said to be 390 feet. We were conducted to most of the principal places of interest, such as the Methodist Chapel, where religious services have been held; the Bridal Altar, at which five couples are said to have been married; the Ball Room and the Star Chamber, which is the most interesting 11 of all. Here some of our party sang and some hallooed in order to hear the echo of their voices. Rockets were fired and fires built upon the rocks for a short illumination. When the lights were removed to a certain distance, only a faint light remaining, the dome had the appearance of being studded with stars, from which it doubtless derives its name of the Star Chamber. We did not visit the river on account of its being flooded and obstructing the passage to it. The size of the cave varies from about three to probably seventy or eighty feet in height, and from six feet to forty or fifty feet in width. There are very deep chasms, to which we did not venture too closely. We came upon a spring in the cave, of which we tasted. Some claimed it to be good, but for my part I did not admire it. We also saw vats, which have been used for the purpose of making saltpetre from the earth in the cave, which industry, it is said, was successfully carried on and furnished saltpetre from which powder was made in the War of 1812. We also saw two small stone houses, probably ten or twelve feet square, formerly used by consumptives, with the hope that by avoiding the outside climate, with its frequent changes, they would be cured, but the experiment was unsuccessful. One or two, it is said, died there. In regard to extent and size, this cave is doubtless the greatest in the world. We found the air to be good and experienced no more fatigue than if traveling upon the surface. The pureness of the air is said to

be in consequence of a river passing through the cave. Having explored this cave about four hours, and having traveled eight or ten miles in it, and some of our party becoming fatigued, we decided to return to our hotel, which we did, when we retired to rest for the remainder of the night.

### **Tuesday, May 8th.**

Arose refreshed. After breakfast we took a stage, at about 8 a.m., and reached Cave City at 10 a.m. We took the cars for Louisville at 10.45 and arrived there at 3 12 p.m. The section of the country that we passed through is not very fertile, but the State, taken as a whole, is well adapted for agriculture. In the southern, as well as in the northern, portion of the State there are many log houses. By building chimneys upon the outside they not only make more room in their houses, but likewise render them cooler. Mules instead of horses are generally used in this part of the country. Riding upon horse-back appears to be the most common mode of traveling. Ox teams are very rarely seen, and their use, even in the East, has very much decreased from that of former days, horses having superseded them. The large extent of land upon which stumps of trees are standing shows that a vast acreage has been cleared within the last twenty years. I wrote a postal home from this place. We left Louisville at 8.45 p.m., and crossed the long bridge, leading from that city over the Ohio River into the State of Indiana. Darkness coming on we were prevented from seeing much, except occasional illuminations of the sky by lightning.

### **Wednesday, May 9th.**

This morning we found ourselves in Illinois, where large fields of wheat were growing, and equally large tracts were being plowed and planted with corn. We frequently passed through flourishing villages, and finally reached St. Louis about 8 a.m., having crossed the Mississippi River upon the great iron bridge and passed through a tunnel under the city to the depot. We found stages and carryalls ready, as usual, to convey us to our hotel, the Laclede.

After breakfast we visited the bridge, paying five cents toll for each pedestrian. On our return we visited the City Hall, or Courthouse. We went nearly to the top of the dome, from which a good

view of the city may be had, but on account of the hazy and smoky atmosphere of that day, the view was not as distinct as it otherwise would have been. Still, we had quite a good view of the city.

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The smoke of the city makes everything outdoors somewhat the color of chocolate. Painting the buildings is said to be useless as far as looks are concerned, for the smoke soon discolours them. The weather to-day in St. Louis is very warm, the thermometer standing about 86. We left at 9 p.m. for Kansas City, upon the Chicago & Alton road.

### **Thursday, May 10th.**

The morning's light found us near the middle of the State of Missouri. This section of the country is not remarkably good, but as we proceed on our journey it improves until we pass the Missouri River, where it is very good, surpassing any through which we have yet passed. Peach trees were large and of thrifty appearance. Cribs the size of ordinary houses were filled with corn in the ear; herds of cattle, noble and fine, were grazing in the fields; groups of horses, colts and pigs were frequently seen in great numbers.

Immense mounds of straw, left from former years' threshing, were seen in the fields. Illinois is a good farming State, but Missouri appears to be better. Of the towns that we pass through, Sterling and Marshall appeared to be most prominent. For the first time a dining car was attached to our train, and we were served with breakfast while the train continued on its way. It stopped at a place called Odessa for water, which is quite a large village. Here, as in many other places in this region, many buildings are in process of construction. We are now about twenty miles from Kansas City, and the train is running with great speed. We reached Kansas City about 8 o'clock a.m. This city is quite hilly, and our time did not allow us to see much of it. I doubt if many other cities exceed this as a railroad centre. Numerous trains were arriving and departing and throngs of people were changing cars. As we proceed westward the atmosphere has become much cooler. We left Kansas City between 9 and 10 and crossed the line into the State of Kansas, first changing 14 cars from the

Chicago & Alton road to the Topeka & Santa Fe, having tickets to Pueblo. As we pass along in the State of Kansas we see evident marks of an enterprising and industrious people.

Here and there we saw families residing in wagons and tents until they could erect more substantial habitations. The road runs near the Kansas River, of which we had an occasional view. This is a river of considerable size, is navigable for vessels of light draft for a considerable distance and empties into the Missouri River near Kansas City. The soil in this State is very good and the surface is more diversified by hills than that of most of the prairie States. This State, for the length of time of its settlement, appears to have made greater advance in improvements and education than any other State of the Union. Passing on we reached Lawrence, a large and growing place. From there we went on to Topeka, the capital of the State. The State House is situated upon an elevation to the right of our road. Before our train fairly came to a full stop we saw a man ringing a bell, summoning us to dinner, to which we did ample justice. From this place we soon reached an extensive region which is underlaid with a vein of coal at the depth of about thirty feet from the surface, in quantities probably sufficient to last for centuries. In the distance of ten to twenty miles we saw many scores of openings from which they were hoisting out coal and loading cars. Thus, here two crops are obtained, one from a rich soil upon the surface and the other from a vein of coal some twenty feet in thickness and about the same distance below the surface. Mining and agriculture both flourish here. We next reached Osage City. The extent of territory and resources of the West are almost beyond comprehension. It seems to me if the soil and capabilities of the whole United States and its Territories were utilized to their fullest extent it might possibly sustain the 15 whole present population of the globe. Here, in every direction, as far as the eye can see, one continuous stretch of most beautiful and fertile land under fine cultivation is spread out before us. Thousands of splendid looking cattle are either grazing or feeding at their cribs upon shining, yellow corn, while numberless herds of hogs are fattening upon the grain left or dropped by the cattle. Orchards of fruit trees are frequently seen. The next place of importance that we passed through was Emporia, which is a grand place.

In this section there are also extensive stone quarries, which are of excellent quality and of great utility. The stone is carried to different parts of the State in great quantities for every purpose

for which stone is required. There are also extensive marble quarries in the section near Strong City. There are also lime quarries, at which lime was being burned. Further on we passed through Florence, and as we advanced on our way we observed many more quarries great extent and value being worked. While in the midst of a rich and fine agricultural country the shades of night came over us and shut it out from our view.

### **Friday, May 11.**

I awoke to look out upon a vast plain stretching in every direction as far as the eye could reach, relieved only by vast herds of cattle. Many in these herds were poor in flesh, owing to the Winter which had just passed, and occasionally a carcass was seen. Many calves and colts were among these herds. As the train approached they would run from it, and then, as if amazed, turn and look at it. We occasionally saw prairie dogs, fleeing to their habitations in the earth. Very few birds of any kind are ever seen, as there are few or no trees. Animals here live both Summer and Winter upon a short grass called buffalo grass, which grows upon these plains, and, although short, is said to be very nutritious.

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We occasionally saw small huts, which are sometimes occupied by cowboys. At this moment I hear a sharp blow of the whistle, and, upon looking out, see cattle fleeing from us, some of which seem to enjoy the sport while others look at us as if amazed. Our route now is in sight of the Arkansas River, a crooked, sluggish stream. The present and chief use of this vast plain over which we have just passed is to furnish flesh for the world; but it is said when the land is irrigated and cultivated it produces large crops. This vast plain impresses one with the immensity and greatness of the works of the Creator.

As we pass from this plain into a more diversified country, we notice in the distance to the right quite a number of large buildings, which we find belong to the Government, and have been used in the past as a post of defense against hostile Indians. We took breakfast at a place called La Junta, which is near the 36th degree of latitude and 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. The climate of

this place is good for pulmonary complaints. In conversation with the man who claimed to be the founder of this place, he said that when the wind blew with sufficient force to blow things over in other places it would not do it here on account of the lightness of the atmosphere. In regard to the lightning, he said it might play around you and you would feel it, but it would not hurt you, and never struck anything. Before leaving the plains we saw in the distance a drove of buffalo playing and kicking up the dust. Cottonwood trees grow very generally along the banks of the Arkansas River. Pike's Peak now appears in view. We have now reached a point where the land is irrigated and cultivated to some extent and the soil looks rich and fertile. Only water is wanted here to raise good crops. We have now reached a region where sage grass prevails. This grows in bunches about two feet in height. Dugouts seem to be common as residences. We arrived at Pueblo, which is something of a railroad place, about 11 a.m., where we took dinner.

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The Denver Iron and Steel Company's Works, which we visited, are at this place. These works are very extensive. We saw the process by which crude iron ore is taken as it comes from the mines, and made into steel rails for railroads, ready for use. These rails are thirty feet in length. The works turn out 100 tons of rails per day. A branch of their business is making nails, the process of which was new and interesting to us.

We left Pueblo for Manitou, fifty miles distant. We passed through a region not very much improved. On our way we saw prairie dogs in greater numbers than we had as yet seen. Our train stopped a little while, and some of our party got out and gave chase after the prairie dogs, but were unable to catch them. The dogs were too smart, and their holes in the ground furnished safe retreats.

The only place of much importance that we passed through was Colorado Springs, which is some eight miles from Manitou. We reached Manitou about 5 p.m., and put up at the Manitou House.

### **Saturday, May 12th.**

Manitou is much sought by invalids on account of its healthful atmosphere and the excellency of its mineral springs. It has several hotels and a number of churches. From this place, which is

situated in a gorge in the mountains and at their base, parties go upon mules or horses to visit Pike's Peak. The expense of the trip, including guide, conveyance by horse or mule, and toll, is \$6. It takes about nine hours to make this trip. It is said that some invalids who came here years ago and still remain, are now perfectly well and healthy. We visited the wonderful Garden of the Gods. Wonderful on account of the shape, height and colors of single rocks. It took its name from the fact that the Indians used to resort here to worship these remarkable formations. From here we went to the Uta Pass, a place well worth visiting. Being overtaken by rain, the 18 first which we have had since we left home, we returned to our hotel. Some of the single rocks in the Garden of the Gods are said to be over 300 feet in height. It is said that they cannot be equaled by anything of the kind in the world. Inscribed upon the largest of these rocks, called Jupiter, are the words in large letters: "Prepare to meet thy God." In the presence of such works of the Creator, how small, how insignificant, does man appear. Some persons have supposed these wonderful rocks fell from some other planet.

### **Sunday, May 13th.**

This being the only chance for visiting Pike's Peak, and a clergyman of our party remarking that one could worship God as well there as anywhere, nine of our party, Cristy among the number, set out upon mules or horses to visit it. They returned about 5 o'clock p.m. The depth of the snow and a very high wind prevented them from reaching a higher altitude than the timber line. Cristy brought back with him several smoky topaz stones which he found upon the mountain. There are three churches in the village—Methodist, Episcopal and Congregational. I attended services at the Congregational. Bears are said to come to the outskirts of this village at night for something to eat.

### **Monday, May 14th.**

We left Manitou by a special train at 8.30 a.m. for Denver, a distance of seventy-five miles. The country here appears to be much better for agriculture and under better cultivation, with better fences, buildings and improvements than any we have passed through in Colorado.

We arrived at Denver at 12.30 and found carriages waiting to take us to the St. James Hotel. After dinner I went out with Cristy, and on returning to our hotel we found letters from home, the first which we have received since we left.

### **Tuesday, May 15th.**

As usual, I rose early and wrote home to mother and Everett.

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After breakfast I met a man engaged in cattle raising in this State. He said that the cattle business had been very profitable and is growing more so; that very little capital is required, the chief expense being to handle the cattle, and that the demand for cattle is greater than the supply can meet.

The wealth and pecuniary resources of Colorado appear to be derived very largely from this source and from the mining business. We visited the reading room of the Young Men's Christian Association, but were disappointed in not finding any newspaper from New York or the Eastern States. We also visited the branch mint of the United States. We saw the process by which the gold was separated from the alloy and run into gold bars in different sizes, according to the sizes of the deposits. After this a small piece is cut off each end, which are assayed and the true value of the metal is determined, after which it is bought by the Government.

During the course of an hour, while we were at the mint, they refined five deposits, varying from \$150 to over \$1,200 in value. About \$1,500,000 worth is assayed annually. We were told that it was the most perfect and complete mint in all its departments in the world. In the evening I went with Cristy to the Opera House, which is claimed to be one of the finest in the world, to see which was the chief inducement for me to go. The play was called "Cheek." The music was good and attendance fair. Upon the drop curtain was the representation of some ancient castle in ruins. Where the floor ought to have been there was a pool of water, while in the background the mountains

tower as firm and stable as ever. Underneath was inscribed this quotation from Kingsley: "So fleet the works of men back to the earth again. Ancient and holy things fade like a dream."

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**Wednesday, May 16th.**

This morning we clubbed together with three others of our party, hired a carriage and took a ride for three hours. We visited the Argo Smelting Works, which are very extensive and situated about two miles from the city. Here large quantities of crude silver ore are brought on cars from different mines. The quality of the ore varies largely in value.

We rode through North Denver and passed the residence of Brick Pomeroy, which is situated upon elevated ground upon the outskirts of the city. We saw men at work sinking artesian wells. These wells are now being sunk in different parts of the city.

The streets in this city are made from the natural earth only, are very fine to drive upon and are said to be always in the same condition. This city is lighted by electric lights, which are placed in towers about 150 feet high and located upon elevated ground upon the outskirts of the city. There are about six of these towers, with six lights on each. They are made of iron. In this way the city is lighted, superseding the necessity of street lamps. We crossed the Platte River twice and passed to elevated ground in the east part of the city, where the finest residences are located. Here the Governor, the judges of the courts, the Mayor of the city and other noted personages reside. The cemetery, which is about three miles out and which is considered very beautiful, we did not visit. The public schoolhouses, as, indeed, all the public buildings, are very fine and substantial.

We got back to the hotel about 12 o'clock. In the afternoon we visited the County Courthouse, which I believe is one of the finest in the United States, and in the building of which it is said there was no fraud or speculation and that the money expended was the most honestly used of any in the United States for similar purposes. After we returned we packed our trunk and left at 8 p.m. for La Veta.

Persons without suspecting are sometimes interviewed by 21 newspaper reporters. While we were in Denver a newspaper was sent to one of our party from St. Louis, in which the following article appeared:

“SEEING THE WEST.

“Arrival of the Continental Excursion Party at St. Louis—Chat with Some of Them as to Whence They Came and What They Saw.

“The Continental Excursion Party, under the guidance of Cook & Son, arrived yesterday at the Laclede. The party passed through on a special train, being provided with three sleepers, so that each one has a double berth. They are much pleased thus far with the trip, and unite in saying that Mr. Cook is carrying out his agreement in providing the best railroad and hotel accommodations to be obtained on the route. The party left New York on the third of May, but Washington was really the starting point, where they all united. They stopped over on Sunday at Louisville, and on Monday they made a long trip to the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, having to ride nine miles from Cave City, after leaving the train, over boulders and stones which shook them up considerably. They were unable to proceed to the river which runs through the cave, on account of the water being in flood. The party spent five hours in exploring the cave. They were disappointed, but found some compensation in visiting the Star Chamber, which is truly worth going to see. A day was spent in this city in taking a view of the bridge, the steamers along the wharf, etc. Some paid a visit to the elevators, while others went out to Shaw's Garden, each one following his own bent in sightseeing. The ladies of the party, who are arch, lively and good looking, are not afraid to go about and see what is to be seen. There are twenty Europeans in the party, embracing 22 English, Scotch, Irish, Danes, Swiss and Germans, the others being Americans of the different States. A Republican reporter met a group resting at the Laclede, after a jaunt about the city. There were a Scotchman, an Englishman, a Yankee and a Dane, the latter being master of five languages. The Yankee, Mr. Mead, was a Connecticut man, having been born in Greenwich and residing there still. He remarked that Put's Hill is at one end of the town. It was down this hill that Gen. Putnam, in the Revolutionary War, plunged on horseback when chased by a squad of British light horse, who

came very near capturing the old hero at his headquarters. Mr. Mead said he recollected the old church, when it was still standing on the hill, and one side of it still showed the marks of British bullets. Greenwich is on the extreme southwest corner of the State, on Long Island Sound, and adjoins Westchester, New York. It was included in what was known as the neutral ground when the British occupied New York, and raids were so frequent in the place by the British Tories and refugees, who carried off everything, that the patriots had to flee to Danbury and other neighboring towns for refuge. In the War of 1812 Mr. Mead was old enough to remember when a supposed British expedition landed at the point and the inhabitants fled in alarm, until they found out it was a friendly force of Americans, then the population returned to their homes very much rejoiced. Greenwich is one of the oldest towns in the State, having been settled 250 years ago, yet there are towns in the West only a few years old that have far outstripped it in population, wealth and enterprise. Mr. Mead stated that among the noted men who resided at Greenwich was the late Mr. Tweed, who expended money very freely. He purchased ground, paying whatever was asked for it, and expended in buildings and other ways over \$300,000, which were sold a few years ago for about \$50,000. The Connecticut gentleman remarked that St. Louis 23 was a big city. The only fault he found with it was the coal smoke, while the London man and the Birmingham man, who breathe coal smoke continually, said this was no objection to them. We have coal smoke with us, you know, said one of these parties. The London gentleman was disappointed with the Mammoth Cave, because he could see no water. The Scotchman said it didn't equal Fingal's Cave in the Island of Staffa, for awe-inspiring scenery. The Giant's Causeway was also cited as well worth seeing. Mr. Mead claimed that the Mammoth Cave was an interesting wonder. He was surprised at its depth below the surface. He supposed that they entered the cave on the side of a precipice and followed the opening, but was surprised to find that you first descend a stairway and go along some distance, when you come to a gate, which was unlocked, when you descend to a still greater depth, and then each person, with a light, follows the guides, sometimes threading low passages in a bent posture, and then emerge into larger chambers, irregular rooms arched over like a railroad tunnel. He was told that in some places the thickness of the rock-ribbed roof overhead was at least 380 feet. Chasms two and three hundred feet deep were passed, but not approached very closely.

“The route is rough and stony in some places, but it was found that the fatigue was not greater than if they had walked the same distance upon the upper surface. The party left last night for Kansas City, and to-morrow they will take a run down to Manitou Springs, where they will spend Saturday and Sunday. They then go to Denver, where they pass Tuesday, and next to Santa Fe, where they will stop over one day. Taking the Southern Pacific route, they go direct to California, resting four days at Los Angeles, and three days will be spent in visiting the Yosemite Valley, Mariposa and big trees. They 24 are booked for ten days at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, also two days at Monterey. Then they come back, returning on the Missouri Pacific, and, after spending one day in Salt Lake City, leave for Omaha and Chicago, where they will put up at the Sherman House. The balance of the route includes Niagara Falls, the Thousand Islands, to Montreal and back to the starting point at New York, where they separate, the Europeans leaving New York on a Cunard and White Star line for home. The fare for the round trip, taking in all the specialties above noted, is \$500. The excursionists have nothing to do but to show their tickets and watch the panorama which unrolls before their eyes.”

#### **Thursday, May 17th.**

We arrived at La Veta at 7 a.m. Having traveled during the night into a mountainous region, we found ourselves in a much cooler atmosphere, the altitude being about 7,500 feet. It was so cold that fires were necessary in the cars. The cars ran slow much of the time, on account of the heavy grade, some of it being about 240 feet to a mile, with many short curves, one of which is said to be the shortest in the world, which is thirty degrees. The cars were drawn by two engines, and the highest altitude reached was said to be 12,000 feet, at which point the cars stopped, and the boys and girls got out and went to snowballing. From this point on a clear day, it is said that objects 200 miles distant can be seen, but we are in the clouds and in the midst of a heavy snowstorm, while it is probably pleasant and the sun shining in lower altitudes. I see smoke coming from the chimneys of the log cabins, and men standing in their doorways, out of the storm, looking at us as we pass. In this high altitude it is said that it snows every month in the year. In some of the gorges a high board fence is built upon the side of the track to prevent the snow from drifting upon it.

There is considerable timber in these mountains, mostly pine.

Returning from the Toltec Gorge, the extent of our journey in the mountains, we passed through San Luis Valley, 70 miles by 250 miles. This valley is said to be 8,000 feet above the level of the sea. We struck the Rio Grande River, which rises in the mountains in Colorado. We saw a fine herd of horses and cattle. This immense plain is surrounded by large mountains, with snow-covered tops. The windings and twistings among the mountains are grand in scenery, the peaks and valleys, hundreds if not thousands of feet in height, almost perpendicular, and the railroad running upon the verges of them, form scenery which is perfectly grand and wonderful. While we were at the Toltec Gorge and near one of the tunnels, of which there are five or six, which we passed through during the day, we saw a very fine granite monument erected as a memorial to James A. Garfield, at a celebration held here in the Spring of 1882, by the ticket agents and employees of the railroads in the United States. The scenery of this day is worth the cost of the whole trip. On our return to La Veta we took supper on the way at Almosa. We thus spent this day in traveling among the mountains, which was not a part of the direct route.

We left Almosa at 8 o'clock p.m., and found ourselves next morning, which was beautiful and clear, at El Mora, after a whole night's run.

### **Friday, May 18th.**

We passed through Trinidad, and, reaching Baton, we took breakfast there. Baton is quite a village and something of a railroad centre. From Los Vegas we took a branch road six or seven miles, to Hot Springs, which we reached about 1 p.m. The hotel and grounds are first-class. They are both extensive and well managed, for the comfort and 26 enjoyment of the guests. The springs are quite numerous, the water of some of which is so hot that it is uncomfortable to hold the hand in it. Bathing in water brought from these springs is a luxury, as we can testify by experience. The water is more or less impregnated with sulphur. After dinner Cristy, in company with some others, hired donkeys, which were about the size of large dogs. They found it splendid exercise for the right arm.

## **Saturday, May 19th.**

I enjoyed a good night's rest, having spent the two previous nights on the cars. The country in and about Las Vegas is being settled rapidly, but in the outskirts of the villages many of the poor live in huts which in the East would not be considered fit for domestic animals. The name of the hotel at Hot Springs is Montezuma. We passed through a number of minor places, such as Bernal, Peas, Fulton, Clorita and Lamy. At one of these places there is a church which is said to be 430 years old. We took a branch road to Santa Fe and arrived there about 2 p.m. and put up at the Palace Hotel.

Santa Fe is the most curious city in the United States. After dinner we started out to see the city. This city is said to be the oldest town in the United States, and to contain the oldest church. It was settled by a former race, before the Spaniards took it. The buildings, which are mostly one story in height, are built of adobe or mud. Those of the first settlers are said to still exist, although they look very ancient and very much dilapidated, but they are still inhabited by a degraded-looking people. Some of our party made the acquaintance of the Methodist missionary stationed at this place, to whom we are under much obligation for kindly piloting us to the various places of interest in the city. He first took us to the jail, then to his neat little adobe house and chapel, then to a museum, where Indian curiosities were on exhibition, at which place I observed a stone axe <sup>27</sup> very much resembling one I have at home. He next took us to a place where the ancient rude agricultural implements of the Mexicans were exhibited. These were great curiosities. From there he took us to the residence of Mr. Ritch, the Secretary of the Territory, who made a speech, giving the history of the Territory; next to the United States military post, which is in the centre of the city, and introduced us to the General in command, McKenzie. We observed horses and mules belonging to the Government, which were in striking contrast to the small, wretched-looking animals about the streets, as well as all sorts of conveyances and implements adapted to Indian warfare. I was particularly interested in noticing an ambulance for bringing back the wounded and sick. A large part of the troops are now out in the pursuit of hostile Indians on the Mexican border. While some of the Indian tribes are hostile, there are others who are friendly and who greatly aid our troops as pilots, etc. These can always be depended upon as friendly helpers. We were then taken to the

Governor's palace, on our way to which we passed through a public square, in the centre of which was a fine granite monument "erected to the memory of the soldiers who fell in helping to subdue the Rebellion, and in other wars."

The Governor's palace is a large, long, one-story adobe building, coated white, with a broad veranda running the whole length. This building is said to have been occupied by all the Spanish Governors, from the Conquest by Spain to the present time. Its rooms are comfortable and pleasant. The Governor received us very courteously, and, taking us into his parlor, made a speech to us, in which he spoke of the greatness in extent and resources of this nation, and said, in the course of his remarks, that whenever the Anglo-Saxon race wanted the world they could take it. The people here, and their surroundings, manners and customs are the same as were their ancestors, generations 28 and centuries past. Five-sixths of the inhabitants are of Indian and Spanish descent, but the Yankees are pushing in here and bringing with them their churches, schools, style of architecture, laws, manners and customs, who, I think, in a few years, by their superior learning and intelligence, will produce an entire change in the character and appearance of the place. I observed a fine brick school building, which the Congregationalists were putting up, and there are four small Protestant churches in the city.

### **Sunday, May 20th.**

I attended church in the morning at a Presbyterian chapel, while some of the party attended Church at the old adobe Catholic Cathedral, said to be the oldest church in America, and others went to hear Dr. Weston, one of our party, preach at the Episcopal Church. I spent the rest of the day quietly, wrote a letter home and retired early.

### **Monday, May 21st.**

At 8 a.m. we returned from Santa Fe on a branch line back to the main road, and proceeded on our way through New Mexico. Saw on the plains, for the first time, some antelope. They are very beautiful animals and swift at running. As we proceed on our way we pass several river beds, which are now dry. We saw breakwaters being built by the railroad company on the banks of the rivers

to prevent their tracks being washed away in times of freshets. The mode of constructing them is by driving two rows of piles a few feet apart and filling in with stones the place between them and the bank. We stopped at a place called Wallace for lunch, at the depot of which place I saw a large company of Indians, who appeared to be there for the purpose of seeing the whites, and for receiving presents from them. They were very poorly clothed and had no covering for the head except their long, straight, thick, black hair. As we passed on along the Rio Grand River we saw quite a village of Indians, the houses of which were built of adobe and the grounds about them cultivated, indicating an approach to 29 civilization. We also observed a church in their village. These Indians are called Pueblo Indians, because they live in villages, the word Pueblo meaning village Indians. The valley of the Rio Grande is very extensive and rich. We saw large areas of various kind of crops growing, the river affording abundant means for irrigation.

We reached a large village called Albuquerque. As we pass on in this valley we see vast herds of cattle, horses, mules, sheep and goats, the like of which for numbers we have not seen before on our trip. We also saw vineyards and more Indian villages. We stopped at Los Lunas, and at a place called the Valley of Death, at which place the earth has the appearance of having passed through the heat of intense fires, and being thrown up in small waves or ridges, and the stones appear like the cinders which are thrown out from a furnace. This barren waste continues for seventy miles, where there is no vegetation and no water unless transported there. We stopped at a place called Rincon, fifty-two miles from Deming. A small bush grows here called the mosquito wood, the roots of which are used for fuel and the pods for food. For the first time for a long distance we begin to see some few birds. We reached Deming about 7 p.m., where we took supper. The junction of the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific is at this place, which is a place of some importance. We left at 8 p.m. on a splendid moonlight night, but saw little of the country until we reached Tucson, Arizona Territory, the next morning, 220 miles distant.

## **Tuesday, May 22d.**

We spent the day at Tucson. As they were constructing some adobe buildings, I had the curiosity to see them make the adobe and carry up the walls of their buildings with it. The earth is first mixed to

a proper consistency, with short pieces of straw intermixed; then it is shaped in a mold and turned out and dried in the sun. The process is much the same as that of making bricks.

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After they are sufficiently dried they are ready for use. The same material is used as mortar to lay them in. All classes here seem to construct their houses to some extent of this material, which appears to be well adapted to last in this climate, and probably will never go entirely out of use. Instead of making roofs of this material, as formerly, they are now using shingles. This is a very old place and contains a population of 10,000. A considerable portion of the inhabitants is from the North, who are rapidly increasing and bringing with them Northern improvements, such as gas and water. I noticed on the streets good carriages with fine horses.

We stopped at the Porter Hotel, and the thermometer, while we were there, ranged from 85 to 90 degrees.

### **Wednesday, May 23d.**

We left Tucson in the evening of May 22 for Los Angeles, one of our chief stopping places.

After a run of several hundred miles through the night we reached the Western portion of Arizona. Here, in the early morning, we saw beds upon the housetops and in the yards, apparently just vacated. The inhabitants which we saw here were chiefly Indians or Mexicans. We took breakfast at a Yuma Hotel, on the banks of the Rio Colorado River, which is the dividing line between Arizona and California. The hotel at which we stopped was new and commodious and belongs to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. The table was loaded with all the substantials and delicacies of the season in that part of the country. This place is near the Mexican line. Soon after entering the cars, a boy passed through with San Francisco and Los Angeles papers for sale. The river, which we crossed, was of considerable size, with a very swift current. After crossing this river into California we commenced running in a great sandy desert. This desert is from twelve to fifty miles in width and 185 in length. The sand in some parts drifts like waves of the sea, 31 while in others it is baked

hard. This sandy desert is without vegetation of any kind and without animal life, except horned toads, which are perfectly harmless and are said to live on the air.

This desert is thought to have been once a part of the ocean. Some portions are 260 feet below the level of the sea. The deepest hollows contain rock salt of the finest quality. It is supposed that a bar was formed which cut this off from the ocean, and gradually the water evaporated from it until it became dry. Before the railroad was constructed it was suggested by some that a channel be cut into this from the ocean, thus making it again part of the ocean in the interests of commerce. We stopped at a telegraph station and found the operator to be a woman. We saw distinctly at a short distance what appeared to be a beautiful lake of water, but there was no water there. The deception was perfect. It was simply a mirage. We took dinner at a hotel at Indio, in the yard of which place we saw an Indian family, parents and three children, the youngest of whom, a year or two old, in its mother's arms, interested our party considerably in grasping pieces of money handed to it and very cunningly handing them to its mother. The tribe to which they belong was said to live a short distance from this place, and the chief is 130 years old, but was very feeble. At times when the wind blows hard the sand is nearly blinding, but we were greatly favored, having only a light breeze, just sufficient to fan us. 12 m. While the thermometer is 100 degrees here we plainly see snow upon the mountains. As we run up out of the desert verdure and vegetation begin to appear, which gradually increase. Beautiful flowers begin to make their appearance. The change from the parched sand of the desert to the beautiful green fields is very exhilarating and refreshing and led some of our party to burst out into singing as we came into this beautiful land of fruit and flowers. We now begin to meet with pleasant-looking homes, 32 about which are fruit trees, which give an appearance of comfort and enjoyment.

Large herds of cattle and other animals are feeding in some of the fields, while in other fields men are making and drawing hay, and in some others harvesting various grains. Orchards of fruit trees look thrifty. We stopped at the City of Colon for a few minutes. While our trip thus far has been very interesting, it is now becoming more so. We frequently pass extensive vineyards and fields of Indian corn, and as we near Los Angeles we begin to see fine residences and groves of orange trees, which are laden with tempting yellow fruit. As we were being conveyed to the Pico House

a band was playing upon the balcony of the hotel. The Pico House was named after a Mexican General who owned the property, the descendants of whom still own it. Owing to the large number of guests at the hotel, all of our party could not be accommodated there, so we were assigned a room in another house upon a hill, where we found very good and pleasant accommodations.

### **Thursday, May 24th.**

We were greeted by a pleasant morning after a good night's rest. We went down the hill to breakfast, after which several of us engaged a carriage to drive us to places of interest about the city, paying \$1 apiece. We visited several fine residences, beautifully laid out, about which were orange orchards and vineyards. The business of raising oranges and making wine is probably carried on more extensively in this part of the State than in any other. Likewise lemons are raised to some extent. Large quantities of oranges were lying on the ground in piles, as well as upon the trees. The best orchards and vineyards are valued at \$1,000 an acre, and real estate has recently advanced very materially in value. Fig trees flourish here, but bananas can hardly be brought to maturity. Some of these places are remarkably beautiful, being adorned with fruit 33 and shade trees, shrubs and flowers, and thus remain all the year round. The temperature varies little during the year, and traveling on the roads is said to be good at all times. Our attention was attracted by a great procession and ceremony. Upon inquiry we found it was Corpus Christi day. This city is about six miles square and is lighted by electric lights, which are suspended on masts. The city is said to contain \$11,000,000 worth of taxable property, that being about one-half of its real value. The tax is six mills on a dollar, and the debt about \$200,000. If the Garden of Eden was in America, as some have suggested, I think it must have been in this region, where most of the fruits, shrubs, vegetables and flowers grow.

The Jesuits called this city Los Angeles, meaning the city of the angels, because the people were so easily influenced for good. Although they have no rain here for the most part of the year and have to depend largely upon irrigation, still there is a mist which comes from the Pacific during the night which is doubtless very beneficial to vegetation. One of the finest places which we visited belonged to Mr. Hollenbrech, and was called "Brooklyn Heights." We saw large cactus trees. Some

grow in this region from fifty to eighty feet in height. The climate near the Pacific coast may not be as desirable as in the interior, on account of the greater dampness and lower altitude. Altitude has much more influence upon the atmosphere, both in regard to temperature and to lightness, than latitude.

### **Friday, May 25th.**

Thirteen of our party left the hotel this morning to visit Sierra Madre Villa, sixteen miles distant, and situated at the foot of the mountains. Much of the way we passed through orchard groves and vineyards, covering hundreds of acres. We reached the villa about 11.30 and took dinner about 12. This villa is a beautiful place and is a favorite resort for visitors. I met at this place Mr. Decker of the firm Decker, 34 Howell & Co., New York. After dinner we had the privilege of helping ourselves to oranges in the groves. Fruit which grows a distance back from the coast is better than that which grows near the coast. We left the villa at 3 o'clock by a different route, passing through many fine vineyards and orchards, but the most extensive and beautiful were those of a Mr. L. T. Rose of San Gabriel, Cal. He has 1,900 acres of splendid land under excellent cultivation, on which is a beautiful vineyard of 800 acres, from which he makes great quantities of wine. His orange orchards, in which he has 4,000 trees, are equally beautiful. The trees were loaded with beautiful and rich fruit. I observed also a large area of yellowing, ripening wheat. He has also a large stock of fine horses. He is said to be worth \$2,000,000. He came overland from Illinois with his emigrant wagons twenty-three years ago. On our return we passed the old San Gabriel Indian Mission Church, where the first vineyard was planted and 3,000 Indians were in school. We reached the hotel about 6 o'clock, took our supper and went up the hill, ascending by a lengthy wooden stairway on the side to our quarters. It is said that the American forces were stationed on the top of this hill when they took Los Angeles from Mexico. We saw a great number of ground squirrels and a small owl perched upon a mound by one of their holes. They seemed to consort together. On our return we found a letter from home.

### **Saturday, May 26th.**

I wrote a letter home to Abie. I bought six stereoscopic views. We frequently meet with Chinamen about the streets, who appear to be orderly and quiet. They seem to be very faithful and intent upon whatever they are employed about. We left the hotel at 5.30 o'clock for the Yosemite Valley by way of Madera or Merced, on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

### **Sunday, May 27th.**

Seven o'clock in the morning found 35 us at Madera, having traveled during the night 314 miles. We took breakfast at the Depot Hotel. We then took stages which were waiting for us at the door to convey us to the Yosemite Valley. The route for the first twelve or fifteen miles lay across the plain, over which we were conveyed in four-horse stages. After we got among the mountains the stages were drawn by six horses, which were changed for a fresh team every twelve or fifteen miles. Our route continued to be more hilly, with short windings and turnings among the mountains. It was often very narrow and frequently lay along the edge of very high precipices. Although the road was cut in the sides of steep mountains, still we were driven with great speed around the short turns grooved into the sides of the mountains. Lofty heights towered above and deep valleys lay below us. Thus our route lay for scores and scores of miles. These Sierra Nevada Mountains are covered with a heavy pine forest. For size, number upon the ground and height, these trees are probably unequaled in the world. We reached Clark's Hotel between 8 and 9 o'clock p.m.

### **Monday, May 28th.**

I awoke in the morning to look upon a pleasant opening of several acres in the wilderness, in the centre of which was a fine, commodious and comfortable hotel, at which we stopped. The name of the hotel is Clark's. We left this place in the stages and entered the wilderness about 7 o'clock for a journey of thirty miles to the valley. On our way we saw two wild deer going up from a stream of water. A rattlesnake, whose rattles showed it to be eight years old, was killed. While coming down into the valley we saw the Cascade Falls, the Ribbon Falls, the Tube Falls, the Bridal Veil Falls, the Yosemite Falls, besides El Capitan, Three Brothers, Cathedral Dome, Cloud's Rest, Half Dome, Sentinel Dome. These vary from three to six thousand feet in height.

## **Tuesday, May 29th.**

Went with a party to visit Nevada Falls. 36 Our way for the most part was upon the sides of the mountains in zigzag courses and very steep and precipitous. The path was very narrow, wide enough for only one person to travel at a time. I rode a sure-footed mule; the rest were on horses. On our way we stopped at Vernal Falls. Both these falls are well worth visiting. Cristy, with some others of the party, went to the top of Nevada Falls. We remained here several hours. On our return to our hotel we found that the last division of the Cook party had arrived. Some of them complained of being sore and tired from the jolting of the long stage ride of 130 miles.

## **Wednesday, May 30th.**

The heights of the different falls are as follows:

Bridal Veil, 940 feet; Nevada, 605 feet; Vernal, 343 feet; Yosemite, 2,550 feet; Sentinel, 3,270 feet.

The names and heights of the mountains which surround the valley are as follows:

El Capitan, 3,330 feet; Cathedral, 2,600 feet; Three Brothers, 4,000 feet; North Dome, 3,700 feet; South Hali Dome, 5,000 feet; Round Tower, 2,400 feet; Cap of Liberty, 3,000 feet; Cloud's Rest, 6,000 feet; Sentinel Dome, 4,000 feet; Glacier Point, 3,100 feet. Although these are the heights which are given, yet no one would think from their appearance that they are so high. Distances, in all these high altitudes, are very deceptive, whether horizontal or vertical. Cristy, with some others, walked to Mirror Lake this morning, a distance of about three miles up the valley, in which the mountains, about sunrise, are reflected as in a mirror. These mountains are one vast rock of granite, their sides being perpendicular and many of them domed. This being Decoration Day, a flag was flying on Glacier Point.

## **Thursday, May 31ST.**

This morning we left the grand and awe-inspiring valley, in which the power and grandeur of the Creator are so wonderfully manifested, in view of which we are 37 impressed with the thought, What is man? We left the valley in stages at 6 a.m. for Clark's. Each stage was drawn by six horses through heavy forest and up mountain grades. The ride was very pleasant and much of the scenery was grand. We reached Clark's about noon. After dinner we went to visit the big trees, about nine miles distant. On the way we had a light sprinkling of rain, which is very unusual at this season, but it soon passed over. The first great tree which we visited was the Grizzly Giant, which we measured with a string and found it to be about ninety-three feet in circumference. There are many others nearly as large. Passing on about two miles we came to a tree through which we drove with our six-horse stage containing ten of us. There was plenty of room and to spare. A box was fastened on the inside of the tree for persons to leave their cards, in which I deposited one. The tallest of these trees is named "Longfellow," and is nearly 400 feet high. We also visited a tree called Andy Johnson, which lies prostrate. We climbed upon its sides by means of a ladder which stood against it, and walked some distance upon it. Some of our party measured the length of it and found it to be between three and four hundred feet. Returning, we reached Clark's at 6 p.m., where we found good open wood fires burning in the grates, which were very comfortable, the weather being so cool in this altitude.

### **Friday, June 1ST.**

We left Clark's at 6 a.m. for Madera. We changed horses at Bufford Station. The road has been much improved by being worked since we went over it a few days ago. We saw many natural beds of beautiful flowers of all colors. We passed to-day a large herd of goats and two immense herds of sheep. We stopped for dinner at Coarse Gold Gulch, and in the afternoon passed great numbers of ground squirrels.

We reached Madera, or Merced, at 6, having traveled by stage nearly eighty miles during the day. Spent the night at Madera.

**Saturday, June 2d.**

The morning was pleasant, except for a strong, cool wind. At this place is the termination of a flume, which is supported by timbers and extends fifty-five miles back into the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The descent is gradual, so that lumber in clamps floats down unaided. It is here piled in a large lumber yard, with which a steam mill is connected, which stands on the line of the railroad. In this mill the lumber is manufactured for different building purposes, then it is transported by rail in different directions for great distances. We took a train from this place at 6.50 a.m. for San Francisco. We stopped at a place called El Capitan and also at Lathrop. We saw great fields of wheat. Crossed San Joaquin River and reached Oakland at 3 p.m. We passed from the cars into a beautiful waiting room of the Central Pacific Railroad Company's ferry, which crosses the bay to San Francisco. After a short delay we boarded the ferryboat, which landed us in San Francisco, where we found stages waiting to convey us to the Palace Hotel. Room No. 704 was assigned us. This hotel is said to be one of the finest and largest in the world. The total number of sleeping rooms is 1,025, more than one-half of which are double rooms, elegantly furnished. It surpasses all others that I have seen in elegance, convenience and comfort. Here we found a letter from home.

**Sunday, June 3d.**

In the morning we attended service at the Emeritus Congregational Church, of which Dr. Stone was formerly pastor. Dr. Barrows is the present pastor, but he being absent on his vacation, Dr. Stone preached. His text was, "That I might Touch Him." Subject, What is necessary for a vital union with Christ. The church edifice is elegant and the congregation large. Excellent music was rendered by a quartet. In the afternoon we visited the Chinese quarter, which is quite central and contains many streets, lanes and alleys, and is very densely inhabited. The Chinese are very exclusive and adhere closely to their national characteristics.

**Monday, June 4th.**

Went with several of our party to visit the United States Mint at this place. Only silver dollars and \$20 gold pieces are coined here. The process of coining is very complete and perfect. This mint is said to have three times the capacity of any other mint in the world. The superintendent informed us that there were \$30,000,000 in two safes which he pointed out to us. I noticed a seal across the doors of the safes. A German society of the Ancient Order of Workingmen marched through the streets led by a band of music this afternoon.

The United States and German flags were carried side by side. As usual on every Monday evening the band played in the courtyard of the hotel. Quite a collection of people were assembled. In the afternoon we went to the top of the hotel, from which I had a very extensive view of the city in all directions. Wrote a letter home.

### **Tuesday, June 5th.**

Called on H. D. Bacon, 305 Sansome street, on business relating to the Magdalene mine, and likewise on H. J. Booth & Co., in the Merchant's Exchange, room 419. Having a letter to Mr. Haggen, called on him, Nos. 47 to 51 Nevada Block. In the afternoon I remained in the hotel, the thermometer being 95. The people here say that it is the warmest weather, with the exception of one instance, some twenty years ago, that they have ever had.

### **Wednesday, June 6th.**

This morning our party was taken to the Cliff House, a distance of six miles, on the Pacific Ocean, passing through Golden Gate Park. At that place, a short distance from the shore, are great rocks, on which we saw sea lions congregated in great numbers, howling and barking and having a general frolic among themselves. There were also sea fowl, pelicans, etc., in large numbers perched upon the upper part of the 40 rocks. They seemed to be on friendly terms with the sea lions, like a happy family. These rocks are situated near the Golden Gate, which is the entrance to the great harbor. These sea monsters and fowls manifest no fear of man, as the city does not allow them to be disturbed.

I here saw for the first time the broad Pacific Ocean. We returned to our hotel about 1.30 o'clock. A party of us visited an underwriters' patrol house. They went through with their performance the same as though an alarm of fire had been given. The place is only two or three blocks from the Palace Hotel. There are four trained horses there. It was very interesting to see how horses could be trained to perform at the stroke of a bell. They have their harness on and dash to their places, which they reach sooner than the men. The men, who are upstairs, come down a slide like lightning. They claim they have been ready and started in seven seconds from the first alarm of the fire. We went upstairs to see the rooms of these men, and found them very pleasant, with birds, etc., to amuse themselves with. Mrs. Lockwood, one of our party, received a New York Times, which she lent me. It was quite a treat, as it was a long time since we had seen any Eastern papers.

#### **Thursday, June 7th.**

The temperature to-day is cooler and more comfortable. Visited the California Market in California street and saw the finest array of fruits and vegetables that I have ever seen. Called on J. H. Booth. Through the kindness of Dr. Halberstald, I, with about a dozen others, took a sail on California Bay on a splendid yacht belonging to a friend of the doctor living in San Francisco. We had a splendid breeze all the afternoon. We sailed around an island occupied by the United States as a military station. We passed the State Prison, which is situated upon the shore. Passed near the Golden Gate, through which the wind pressed with great force. Saw many large ships moored 41 in the bay and stripped of their canvas awaiting the crop of wheat, which is about being harvested and which they will take to England and other parts of the world. This bay is very large, with a depth of water sufficient to float vessels of the largest size. We had a very pleasant sail for five hours and returned to our hotel about 6 p.m.

#### **Friday, June 8th.**

Six of our party left yesterday for the geysers, to return this evening. Informed at a ticket office that the time required to travel from New York to San Francisco by the Central Pacific is nearly one day shorter than by the Southern Pacific. Having a letter of introduction from Miss Amanda L. Mead

to Dr Stone. I called on him this afternoon. His residence is 1822 Washington street, which was quite a long walk from our hotel. The house is situated upon a hill. From the top of the house a fine view is obtained of the Golden Gate. The house and surroundings are very fine. Had a very pleasant interview with the doctor and his family. We also met a Miss Fischer there. Many inquiries were made about the friends at the East. Miss Fischer said that she was under great personal obligations to Miss Amanda L. Mead. We returned to our hotel about 7 p.m. After supper Mr. Finlay, Cristy and myself visited the Diamond Palace. Diamonds sparkled from every part, even from the ceiling. The room was brilliantly lighted. Saw a pair of diamonds worth \$8,200. We received a letter from Emma, sent to Los Angeles and remailed to us here.

### **Saturday, June 9th.**

Took a walk this morning through the Chinese quarter of the city. The dwellings and streets seemed to be filled with the Chinese. The population is very dense and is said to number 50,000. They are very exclusive and retain the customs and habits of their native country, which render them very obnoxious to the rest of the inhabitants. This afternoon four of us, with a guide, visited the basement of the hotel, where 42 the work is done and the provisions and other stores are kept. Saw the boilers and steam apparatus for warming, cooking, making soap, washing, pressing, ironing, and, in fact, everything pertaining to culinary and laundry branches, as well as furnishing hot water for the thousand and more wash basins and numerous bathtubs for a hotel covering two acres of ground. After this we went to the Taber photograph gallery and bought a dozen views of the Yosemite Valley and the big trees.

### **Sunday, June 10th.**

In the morning attended the United Presbyterian Church, of which Dr. Gilson is pastor. His text was, "Hold On and Not Let Go." Several infants were baptized. The singing was all vocal, no instruments being allowed. In the evening attended service at the same church. The text was from the Psalms, where David would not give sleep to his eyes until he had found a place for the mighty God of Jacob to dwell in. The keynote of the sermon was that no one should delay for an hour

without making his heart a temple for God to dwell in. The discourse was delivered with great force and power.

### **Monday, June 11th.**

In the morning I attended a confirmation service at a Jewish synagogue in Sutter street, at which fourteen girls and two boys were confirmed. The girls were neatly dressed in white, with bouquets in their hands. The services commenced by frequent reading and singing in Hebrew, German and English. The candidates went through a long exercise of being catechized from the Scriptures. The Ten Commandments were recited in Hebrew and English. A beautiful prayer was offered by one of the girls in English. The whole service was very solemn, but lacking the warmth of Christian feeling. We left before the services were entirely completed, having to leave for Monterey. The congregation at the synagogue was large, many not of the Jewish faith being present. We packed our trunk, to be left in our room during our absence at Monterey. 43 We left at 3 o'clock and reached Monterey about 7. We passed through the beautiful and fertile Valley of Santa Clara, varying in width and under a high state of cultivation, where grain, fruit and vegetables were growing in great abundance. Barley was cut and cured before ripe and used in place of hay, as timothy and clover cannot grow there on account of the dry season. It makes rich food, as we infer from the fine appearance of the cattle and horses. The most common trees in this State are oak, cottonwood, Lombardy poplar, cypress, balm of Gilead, evergreens, used much for hedges; palm, cedar and redwood. The redwood is used more for building than any other wood and is very valuable for all purposes. We passed through San Jose, which is a railroad junction and quite a place.

### **Tuesday, June 12th.**

The Del Monte Hotel at Monterey, at which we are stopping, is a very fine place and is surrounded by grounds of more than 100 acres in extent. It is situated in easy walking distance from the depot in a natural grove of live oaks, from the limbs of which hang great quantities of gray moss. The grounds are most beautifully laid out with flower beds and shrubbery. To entertain their guests they

have numerous free accommodations for playing games. It is a very delightful place to visit and has peculiar attractions, which they are still improving and enlarging. At 9 in the morning our party left for a drive of eighteen miles on the Pacific coast. Passing through the village and by a beach we then visited Moss Beach, where we found shells. We next went to Pebble Beach and Cyprus Point, etc., getting out at some of the places and looking for shells and stones. We had a fine view of the vast Pacific Ocean and of the sea lions and fowl upon its rocks. An improvement association has bought this neck of land of 9,000 acres and are improving it by making drives and laying water pipes so as to sell building lots for Summer residences. The water is brought some twenty 44 miles. I observed that the water pipes are iron, similar to those laid in our own village, and were brought from Pennsylvania, by which the village and hotel will be supplied with water, which will save the hotel a great expense, as the water is now obtained from artesian wells 1,100 feet deep, and is raised by two steam engines. In the evening the sky becomes overcast with clouds or vapor rising from the Pacific Ocean, which remains until the sun dispels them the next morning, making the atmosphere balmy and pleasant. In the afternoon I walked around the grounds, while Cristy, with some others, went to the swimming baths, of which there are four, being twenty by thirty feet each. The water is taken from the Pacific Ocean and heated to different temperatures for different baths; all covered in one building, with a division for ladies. Cristy says that it is the best arrangement of the kind that he has ever seen. The price for a single bath is 50 cents.

### **Wednesday, June 13th.**

Took a walk to the village, going to which we walked on the beach at the head of the bay. The place has but two wharves, extending into the bay, but no vessels were lying at them. The place, though very old, contains but about 16,000 inhabitants. Met in the streets an Indian said to be 104 years old. The sidewalks of the village are generally made of the vertebrae of whales, put down endways. Visited also the old Catholic Mission Church, which, although very ancient, is in good condition and still used as a house of worship. We returned to the hotel by a different route, passing a large cemetery, which did not appear to be much filled. When we got to our hotel some of our party were playing lawn tennis, which we watched with great interest, it being entirely new to me.

There were two games which were being played in different parts of the ground. There is also a labyrinth, or puzzle, which consists in walking through paths without stepping over the 45 beds until the centre is reached, where there is a seat. I succeeded with some difficulty in reaching it. When the hedges in the beds are grown it will be a long and difficult task.

#### **Thursday, June 14th.**

Took a walk down to the village of Monterey with Mr. Finley. Stopped at the bath house to take a view of the swimming tanks. We met in the village a man formerly of Massachusetts, who was a magistrate and lumber merchant. He said that more business was done in the place than appeared, and that two or three coast steamers stopped there weekly. We also stopped at a photograph and drug store kept by a physician, who was formerly of Michigan and came here to improve his health, which was broken down in the Union army during the late war. He spends some part of the year camping out in the mountains, but he still looks delicate. I made some small purchases of the doctor and returned to our hotel about 12.30 and went up into the cupola to take a view. Took a walk into the vegetable garden. We then took lunch and left at 1 o'clock for San Francisco, a distance of about 125 miles. We traveled all the afternoon through the same beautiful fertile valley which we went through on our way to Monterey.

#### **Friday, June 15th.**

In the forenoon we walked about the city. Called to see Mr. Holbrook, but didn't find him. In the afternoon went up to China Town with Cristy and Mr. Robinson. Made a purchase at a Chinese store—a breastpin, a fan, a top, a Chinese egg toy and a scratcher. In going about the city we had occasion to ride on the cable roads, on which the cars are drawn by stationary steam power. There are several of them in the city. Some of them ascend and descend hills which I think are so steep that horses could not draw cars over. They do not vary their speed in crossing the hills.

#### **Saturday, June 16th.**

Visited the office of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, opposite the Southern Pacific Railroad 46 Company. We were politely received and shown through the building and the various offices of different departments. The inquiries that I made were frankly answered. This being the Jewish Sabbath, attended a short service at one of their synagogues. The congregation was small and the service cold and formal. In the afternoon crossed the bay on a ferryboat and took cars a short distance to Alameda, where there are two extensive arrangements for bathing and swimming, being large inclosures on the side of the bay, with numerous bath houses and walks on the borders. Stairs lead down in various places, planks placed on pivots and extending over the water, and likewise swings from which to dive. Price of bath 25 cents, and on the ferry and cars 15 cents each way. Returned about 6 p.m. An agent of the Central Pacific Railroad called in the evening to arrange tickets for our return trip, to start next Monday.

### **Sunday, June 17th.**

Attended church both morning and evening at the First Congregational Church, of which Dr. Stone was pastor. Heard two very able, practical sermons by Dr. Stratton, president of Santa Clara College. His discourse in the morning was on the prayer of Solomon, who came to the throne when he was but 19 years of age. He asked God for neither riches nor honor, but for wisdom, which God gave him, together with both riches and honor, showing, especially to young men, that the wisdom which God alone can give adds vastly to success in any calling in life. The text in the evening was, "He that doeth My will shall know of the doctrine." Subject, deduction and induction.

### **Monday, June 18th.**

In the morning went out and bought a breastpin for mother and Hannah and packed our trunk ready to start on our journey on the Central Pacific. Our way for a long time was by the Sacramento River. Many flags were floating on the breeze in San Francisco commemorating the anniversary of 47 the Battle of Bunker Hill. Observed many vessels plowing the waters of this noble river. The day was very fine. We soon passed fields of wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, and vineyards. Reached Port Costa, which is a place of some shipping and business, at 4.45 p.m. Here our train was run on

an immense ferryboat, which conveyed us across the river to a place called Benecia, which is quite a nice place. From here we resumed our journey by rail on the California Pacific, leased by the Central. Our way for a long time lay through marshy land, with tall coarse grass or flags on either side. After traveling for a time through this morass we emerged into a fine agricultural region, where the farmers were harvesting and threshing their grain in fields. Also observed great herds of cattle, sheep, horses and hogs. The hogs west of the Mississippi are black in color. They are said to be more healthy and thrifty in this climate than any other color. Passed a village called Elmira; also passed Dexter, which is quite a fine village, where we counted the spires of four churches. Arrived at Sacramento at 7.30. This is the capital of the State and a very fine city. We stopped twenty-five minutes for supper. Found a letter here from Alfred Mead, inviting me to visit him at Colusa. Wrote a note to him saying that I would be unable to accept his invitation. From here we proceeded on our way until 11 o'clock, when our cars were switched off at the town of Auburn, to be taken on the next morning.

### **Tuesday, June 19th.**

After a comfortable night's rest we arose to see a town of 2,000 inhabitants. Observed to the left of us a building of fine appearance, and on inquiry found it to be a college. This region is said to be well adapted to small fruits, such as raspberries, strawberries, cherries, etc., which are raised extensively. After breakfast at a hotel we resumed our journey, passing through some of the grandest mountain scenery that the eye ever looked upon. Took dinner 5,600 feet above the level of the 48 sea. Here, as has been usual on our journey thus far, special pains had been taken to give us a fine repast. The name of this place is Blue Canyon. From here we soon ran into the snow sheds and continued in them for forty miles, with only occasional glimpses of the scenery through some opening, just enough to tantalize us. These sheds are built very strong and substantial with heavy timber. They are said to have cost \$40,000 per mile. As a protection against extensive conflagration short sections are built of iron. They are also provided with tanks of water and watchmen. At a short distance before emerging from these we reached the summit, 7,500 feet above the sea. We shall pass over higher points on the Denver & Rio Grande later on. Here the train stopped for a short time, and our party got out from the cars and had a frolic at snowballing. Although it was the

middle of Summer, large banks of snow were piled up just outside the sheds. Soon after leaving the snow sheds we commence on a down grade. Observed spurs from the main track to bring lumber from sawmills in the forest. Saw to our left a narrow lake, probably three miles long. After a winding course down the mountain we reached the lumbering village of Truckee at about 7.30 p.m. and took supper at the Truckee Hotel. After mailing a letter home we retired to our berths in the cars about 9.30 p.m. The cars were switched off to remain until about 4.30 in the morning, when they were to be attached to the San Francisco express train. Truckee seems to be a place of considerable importance. In the morning there was a slight frost.

### **Wednesday, June 20th.**

At the appointed time our cars were attached to the express train and we were on our way before we got out of our berths and soon crossed the line into Nevada. Reached the village of Reno, where we took breakfast at the Depot Hotel, about 7 a.m. This is a place of considerable size, handsomely laid out. For some distance on our way in Nevada we passed through a valley where agriculture seems to flourish. There is plenty of water for irrigation, which produces fine crops. Saw at a stopping place a number of Indians. Among them were squaws with papposes, who wanted two bits as a reward for showing the faces of the papposes, which quite amused the passengers, who often gave them more. The papposes appeared bright and cunning. Families of several children were frequently together. It is said that they made a practice of being at the depot for the purpose of getting presents. Their white neighbors represent them as being very indolent and lazy and depending for food and clothing upon the Government. They have a reservation at a short distance from where we were, and number about 6,000 souls. The name of this tribe is Pyates. The use of whisky is one of their greatest evils. Their indolent characteristic applies more to the males than to the females. We are now running over a desert in Nevada, which is about 200 miles long, where there is seldom much to attract the attention. There is not much animal life, excepting horned toads, which are similar to those in California. They look much like the tree toads of the East, only are larger, flatter and have horns. They move very slowly and are perfectly harmless.

Twelve o'clock. Still running on the desert. There is very little variety of scenery. We have just seen in the distance to our left what appeared to be a cone-shaped volume of steam, but some said it was simply mirage. A dinner ticket has just been handed me, from which I infer a hotel is not far distant. Just observed in the distance on the desert what appeared to be another geyser. To our delight and surprise we came upon an oasis in the desert. It contained an acre or more, beautifully laid out with trees, both fruit and ornamental, shrubbery and flowers. A fountain was playing in the yard. The grass was a beautiful green, a complete contrast to everything surrounding. Before our train fully stopped a man was seen ringing a bell on the veranda and summoning us to dinner, for which we had a half hour. After dinner we again proceeded on our journey through the desert. The altitude of this desert is said to be about 4,500 feet above the level of the sea. Indians were seen at every station. I have observed more Indians in the State of Nevada than in any other State or Territory through which we have passed. Saw a burly looking Indian, who I was told was the chief. In company with him was an Indian with painted face, tomahawk and sword swung at his side. Our total run for the day, from Reno to Elko, has been about 313 miles. We have now left the desert and are fairly in the mountains again. We took supper at Elko. We passed some vertical rocks of considerable height, from which large quantities of stones have fallen. Snow-capped mountains are almost constantly in view. Night coming on, during which we are to travel, no more of the landscape can be seen until the morning.

#### **Thursday, June 21st.**

Awoke early, as usual, and spent some time in my berth looking out of the car window before any of the passengers appeared to be astir. We left the State of Nevada and entered the Territory of Utah some time before daylight this morning. After running a time this morning we came in view of Salt Lake, lying to our right. This lake is much larger than I had supposed, being ninety miles long by ten to twenty miles wide. Salt Lake City is situated opposite the southern portion of the lake, at some distance to the east of it, but still in plain view. Observed before leaving the Central Pacific Railroad a roadbed graded for a narrow gauge road extending for a considerable distance. It now belongs to the Central Pacific road. The land, as we approach Ogden, looks better

for agricultural purposes. It continues to improve as we pass into the Salt Lake Valley, where it appears to be very fertile and rich. Crossed a stream near the village of Cirenicie. Observed salt made by evaporation, and salt 51 grass, similar to that which grows along the shores of salt water in the East. We reached Ogden some time in the morning. At this place three or four railroads connect, which makes quite a stirring business place. Here we left the Central Pacific road and took cars on the Denver & Rio Grande road. As we pass on we see increasing evidence of a very rich and fertile soil in the great variety and abundance of their crops, as well as the numerous villages skirting the base of the mountain. As far as the resources of the country are concerned, I think the Mormons showed good judgment in selecting this part of the country. We reached Salt Lake City about noon, and had rooms assigned us in the Continental Hotel. After dinner we took a walk to see the Mormon Tabernacle. Passed a place where fire, the previous night, had destroyed a large amount of property, and by an explosion of gunpowder had broken a large amount of glass in that neighborhood. We were admitted into the Temple by one of the officers having charge after 3 o'clock, according to their rule for admitting visitors. The shape of the Temple is oblong, and the top of it is oval. There are a great many doors, which all open outward. Its size on the ground is 250 by 150 feet. It is 70 feet from the floor to the dome. We were told that it would hold 12,000,9,000 of whom it can seat, and that the organ is the largest one in America, having three banks of keys and fifty stops, made by their own artists. The choir consists of 110 singers. This temple is built for use and convenience more than for beauty, and is so arranged that the dropping of a pin or a whisper can be distinctly heard in any part of the room. It is probably the easiest room to speak in in America. This building is neither heated nor lighted, and on this account they have another fine, large stone building called the Winter Temple. Visitors are not allowed to enter this, but, seeing the door open, we stepped in, and almost immediately a man came running in and informed 52 us that visitors were not allowed there. We had but a partial view. We hadn't time to see much, but saw pictures of a great many men and temples on the ceiling and an inscription about the Mormons first entering that valley in 1847. This building contains another fine organ. I had the curiosity to sit in Brigham Young's chair and to stand in his pulpit. They are now building a third temple, which will far surpass the others in grandeur. They have been at work at it thirty years, and have spent millions of dollars upon it. They are now working upon it with a large force of men and expect to finish it in about five years.

**Friday, June 22d.**

In the morning went with Mr. Sweron and Mr. Young on the horse cars to the hot spring and took a sulphur bath. The distance was about a mile and a half. When returning, my attention was attracted by a very aged man as he came into the cars. On inquiring of him as to his age, he said that if he lived eight months longer he would be one hundred years old, and that he came from England fourteen years ago and had been a Mormon for thirty years, and that he now lives with a daughter. He was now on his way to his barber, who had promised to shave him gratuitously as long as he lived, if he would come on Fridays. A large part of the houses are of one story, and that not very high, with from one to seven front doors at equal distances apart. Each door is supposed to open into a separate apartment. The number of doors indicates the number of wives. After leaving the cars we took a circuitous walk in the southeastern part of the city, and did not return to the hotel until twelve. While upon the street we met several ladies, to whom Mr. Young ingenuously introduced the subject of plurality of wives, and from whom we obtained interesting information, but not very favorable to the system, although they would not say it was wrong in all cases. Some of the leaders say that they 53 believe every word of the Bible is divinely inspired, and that Jesus Christ is a divine being and the Saviour of the world. They said they were honest and sincere in their belief, and that there was less crime in their city, as their police records would show, than in other cities, and that they had been greatly misrepresented. The new temple which they are building is not designed to be used as a house for public worship, but for other uses in the interest of the Mormon Church. The building is to be divided into a great number of apartments. The thermometer to-day at noon was about 90, although we could see the tops of the mountains, covered with snow, not far distant, which affords an abundance of pure water during the dry season, which flows on either side of the streets. About 3 o'clock a large number of our party took the cars on the Utah Central Narrow Gauge Railroad to a place called Garfield Landing, about twenty miles distant on Salt Lake, where there is a wharf, and on one side of which is an extensive line of bath houses. I did not take a bath. Cristy, who took a bath, said that it seems like other salt water, until you get nearly to your neck, when you find yourself rising from the bottom, and when you attempt to swim you kick right out into the air. This water is so salt that it is impossible to sink in it, but woe unto the

person who gets his eyes or nose full of water, for he is liable to remember it for some time after. On our return from the lake Cristy's hair began to stiffen, and soon it was all crystallized with the salt. There are several rivers or streams running into this lake, but no visible outlet. On our way we crossed a river called the River Jordan, which empties into the lake. The lake is valuable for the salt, which supplies not only the city, but also the adjacent country for a long distance. While others were in bathing, I picked up some pebbles to bring home with me. Returned to our hotel about 7 p.m., and after supper went to work to repair our trunk, which had been somewhat 54 damaged during our long journey. After that, packed it, ready to leave the next forenoon. I found the people here polite, kind and communicative. The streets are laid out with great uniformity at right angles and are very wide, being 130 feet in width, well shaded with ornamental trees, with abundance of pure water, from which the streets are sprinkled. Real estate is said to have increased very much in value since the passage of the Edmunds law, and that public taxes are not very heavy. The population of the city and territory is said to be five-sixths Mormons, a very large proportion of whom are of foreign birth. The greater part of the fuel of the city is coal, which is brought from a distance into the city by rail at a price about \$7 a ton.

The Mormon Church is by far the largest one. They claim that they have 40,000 children in their Sunday-schools in the Territory, and three colleges, which contain 1,000 students. It is said that there is but one town in the Territory in which the majority is not Mormon, but all other denominations have established churches to some extent. They will probably grow much faster relatively in the future than the Mormon Church. The products of the soil are fine and abundant and below the price which they bear in New York City, the result of a fruitful soil and a salubrious climate.

### **Saturday, June 23d.**

After breakfast I took a walk with Cristy to see the grave of Brigham Young. It is in a small plot of ground fenced in by a stone wall, situated on a hill a short distance east of the Tabernacle. There is but one other grave in the plot—that of one of his wives. His grave is covered by a very large granite slab from six to eight feet square, being nearly level with top of the ground, and there is

no inscription on it. It is said to weigh several tons. Perhaps it is an intended base for a monument at some future day. There was no monument for his wife. She died more recently. The ground is nicely laid out with circling walks and plots of grass. Before taking leave of Salt Lake City I ought to say that the account given me of the Mormons by the Gentiles is much more unfavorable to their character than a person would form by sojourning with them a few days. Even the death of Brigham Young, which was very sudden and mysterious, was accounted for in a way which casts great stigma on the Church or some of its officials. After our return from the grave of Brigham Young we prepared to leave this place and took a train on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at 10 a.m. We were at once speeding south, through salt Lake Valley, and passing abundant and luxurious crops on either side of the track. The odor of new-made hay was most refreshing and delightful and reminded me of the hayfield with which I have been so familiar from my earliest recollection to the present time. On either hand, at apparently no great distance, snow-capped mountains were in view. Thus we had a Summer and a Winter scene at the same time. We passed Utah Lake about noon. It is a beautiful sheet of fresh water, though not so large as Salt Lake, from which the River Jordan flows.

Took dinner at one of the stopping places in this valley, at which we heard of some extraordinarily large families. At no very great distance from that point we left the valley and entered a hilly region, leading into the mountains.

I omitted the name of the place where we had dinner, which is Provo. The dinner was good and well served. For fruit we had excellent strawberries and peaches. Before leaving the valley we passed four emigrant wagons, and at Springville, a large village, we saw extensive works, where they were making brick. At 2 p.m. we were fairly out of the valley and among the mountains again, passing at times through deep and narrow cañons, with lofty mountains, whose sides were solid rock. They were nearly perpendicular and perhaps from one to two thousand feet high. They were of all conceivable shapes and forms and stand like statues, and so aroused the enthusiasm of some of our English friends that they stood on the platform, and, swinging their arms continually,

exclaimed: "Wonderful! Wonderful! The grandest sight we ever saw!" During our travel to-day saw two beautiful deer in the mountains.

We reached another desert in the State of Utah, in which we are to travel ten hours during the night,. Retired about 10 p.m. The train ran very steadily during the night. We crossed Green River.

### **Sunday, June 24th.**

This is the second Sunday during our journey which we have traveled. About 7 o'clock a.m. we found ourselves among the mountains, winding about on very steep grades, 280 feet to a mile. In a vale in the mountains we took breakfast at a hotel. The Gunnison River was very full, being fed by springs and snow from the mountains. We soon entered the Blue or Black Cantilde; on, and then the Royal Gorge. Although we had seen many grand and awe-inspiring sights, which we thought could not be equaled, still we had to admit that this surpassed them all. It was about ten miles long and very narrow, perhaps three to five rods, with walls of rock rising on either side probably from one to two thousand feet high, affording scarcely room enough for the river and our narrow-gauge road. Sometimes our road was partly over the river, and over which we crossed three times before leaving the cantilde;on. Before entering the cantilde;on, an open car was attached to our train, which seated the whole party. When we had passed through, the open car was detached. This car was evidently built to be attached to trains passing through this gorge for the purpose of giving passengers a full view of the scenery. We occasionally saw a person spending his Sunday in fishing along the banks of the river. The railroad, after it leaves the cantilde;on, follows the 57 Gunnison River for a long distance. We soon came to a village called Gunnison, which is quite a village and contains a large brick hotel. After twisting up the sides of the mountains, a part of the way being under snowsheds, and rising higher and higher, our four cars drawn by two powerful engines, we reached the summit, called Marshal, 11,000 feet above the level of the sea.

This is the highest point that any railroad in the world has ever reached. At this place we were 6,000 feet higher than at the commencement of the day. While noting this down in the cars, I observed quantities of snow at a considerable distance below us. While at this point our train stopped a few

minutes, and several of us went out and brought handfuls of snow into the cars. As I ate some, I perceived no difference from the snow which we have at home. From this summit the water descends both to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The air to-day has been just right for comfort. Enjoyed to-day in the cars some singing appropriate for the Sabbath. Although we have passed some distance from the summit, still the altitude is very high and the scenery sublime. The danger of a descending grade is greater than that of an ascending one. In descending, we have all the brakes on the wheels and the steam shut off. Going zigzag down the mountain, sometimes with very short turns, we are enabled to see the same tracks several times over which we have traveled. Soon after reaching the plain we came to a large village called Animousa. The river running through that place was very full, occasioned by several warm days which had melted the snow. Although we have passed through many wonderful gorges, still, the Royal Gorge, through which we passed last, is the most wonderful for awe-inspiring scenery. Passed through Cantilde;on City, which is quite a place. Reached Pueblo at 8 p.m. and stopped twenty minutes for supper. This evening Mr. Brown, from Brooklyn, left our party to engage in the mining 58 business. After supper we resumed our journey for Denver, which we reached about 2 a.m.

### **Monday, June 25th.**

The morning was very pleasant and balmy, as appears to be usual in this region. The thermometer at 7 a.m. was at 66. The time spent in Denver was only sufficient to permit us to eat our breakfast and to change our baggage from the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to the Burlington and Quincy. Leaving Denver, we at once found ourselves speeding on our way over the Great American Plains, which comprise one extended stretch covered with grass which looked quite fresh and green. Saw three antelopes, very beautiful and sleek animals. The road is straight and the cars run smoothly and fast. Stopped for dinner at a place called Akron, which is 112 miles from Denver. I understood that this place is half way across the plains. The grass still looks fresh and green, and affords good pasture.

Rains are said to be more frequent than formerly, which fact is attributed to the planting of trees, the stirring of the soil and the telegraph wires and steel rails, which cross the continent and are

supposed to attract electricity. Just passed a long freight train of thirty cars going west. We reached the Republican River and ran in sight of it for a long time. Saw immense herds of cattle in or near the river during all the time that we were in sight of it. Saw to the south of us a heavy thunder cloud, from which rain was falling. Its cooling effect is very perceptible to us.

Stopped at a village, where I observed that they were laying pipe to supply the place with water. We have now reached a region where they have had abundance of rain. This, with a rich soil, makes this region very productive in agricultural products, affording a striking contrast to the country through which we have traveled the last seven weeks, where irrigation is resorted to in order to raise crops. Observed several places where the track had been undermined by the recent rains and were being repaired. We were obliged to pass around them on a temporary track. We have now reached a fine corn region in the southern part of Nebraska. On the low land saw water standing in the furrows where the farmers were unable to plow. In passing through a thicket, some cattle having strayed on the track, our train killed two or three of them, with apparently no shock to the train. The train immediately stopped, and we went back and viewed the mangled bodies. This was the only instance that anything of the kind occurred during our whole journey. It is said that the company has an agent to settle with the owners for such damages. Continue to pass immense herds of cattle and sheep. Stopped at Red Cloud, where we spent about one hour, during which we took supper and some of our party amused themselves by jumping. We were soon on our way again, and retired as usual. In the morning awoke and found ourselves at Lincoln, the capital of the State. The weather was very fine and refreshing.

### **Tuesday, June 26th.**

At 6 a.m. took breakfast at the depot dining room. At 7 our train started on its way to Chicago. Passing on, we are still in an exceedingly fertile country, but the crops are, to some extent, on the lowlands, submerged with water. The banks of the Platte River, by which we are traveling, are overflowed, thus making the river very wide. Find our track still somewhat damaged by the freshets, and many men are busily engaged repairing them and removing land slides. Our train was

run very cautiously. The people here in Nebraska say that they have not had such a flood for many years.

At 10 a.m. we crossed the Missouri River, at a place called Plattsmouth. The bridge over which we passed was made of iron and quite high from the river. We now enter into the State of Iowa, and as we proceed through it we see immense numbers of 60 cattle and horses and extensive fields of wheat and corn. The train stopped at Pacific Junction to change baggage, at which place we spent about an hour. The landscape of this State appears to be more diversified than that of some of the prairie States. It has more wood. Passed many villages and country residences, which had a homelike appearance. Observed for the first time on our way from the Pacific States red clover and timothy growing in the fields and occasionally old stacks of hay, which reminded us of the East. Crossed the Mississippi River about 11 p.m. Being in the night, we had but an indistinct view of the great river, which was unusually high. The bridge was built of iron and of considerable length. Immediately after this, I retired to my berth and awoke the next morning some fifty miles west of Chicago.

### **Wednesday, June 27th.**

Passed the very fine city of Aurora. Reached Chicago about 7 a.m., having made the journey from Denver to that place in about forty-eight hours. Nearly all of our way was through a very rich and fertile country, with many fine villages, as well as many fine country residences. We stopped at the Sherman House. After breakfast, although it rained slightly, which was the first we had seen for about eight weeks, we took a walk in the city, passing through a tunnel under the Chicago River. We visited the elevators for storing grain. We then extended our walk down the long wharf to the lake, where numerous vessels were discharging cargoes of lumber. Some of the logs were being sawed into short blocks, to be used for paving streets, and being loaded into cars for transportation. In returning, we crossed the river on a drawbridge and as the draw was about being opened, we remained on it until it was closed again, meantime two vessels passing through. The wind blew considerably, and the lake was quite rough. I returned to our hotel, and after dinner stepped out with Cristy to find a place to be weighed. Cristy weighed 163 pounds, having gained eight pounds

during our eight weeks' journey. My weight was 158 pounds, having gained twelve pounds in the same time. After this we made preparations to take the cars again by the way of the Grand Trunk Railroad, through Canada, Fort Huron, Niagara Falls and by the Erie Railroad to New York. Several of our party remained in Chicago for two or three days longer. Our way was through parts of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Both the country and crops appeared to be very good. At the usual time for supper a dining-room car was attached to our train. After supper this car was detached.

#### **Thursday, June 28th.**

In the morning we found our train running through Canada. The night had been somewhat rainy. Here, as farther west, there appeared to have been an excess of rain. The country of Canada appears to be mostly level, though somewhat rolling. Crops look well, but more backward than those further west. Much of the country appears to have been cleared recently, the stumps still standing. It has evidently been a heavily timbered country. Stopped at the city of London, which has a population of 34,000. After leaving London, the country becomes more hilly and rolling. We next stopped at Hamilton, where we had breakfast. We reached Niagara Falls about 10 a.m. Here our car was switched off, to be taken up by another train later in the day. We started out sight-seeing and crossed the suspension bridge, paying twenty-five cents toll. We next visited Goat Island. From two points of this island we passed down two flights of stairs to the water. Heavy rains having fallen during the last few weeks, the volume of water was very great. This island divides the Falls, and is right on the precipice. In some places the water is of a blue color, in others green, and still in others muddy. Probably throughout the world there is no equal to these Falls for volume. Returning to our train, we passed on to the city of Buffalo and through western New York. The country is finely improved. We took supper at Hornellsville. Not far from this place we saw a very fine fall of water.

#### **Friday, June 29th.**

In the morning we found ourselves in the southern part of the State of New York, near New Jersey. Crossed the ferry to New York City about 9 a.m. Spent several hours in the city and took the 12 o'clock train from the Grand Central Depot for home.

This completes the journey, during which nearly ten thousand miles were traveled, all by rail, with the exception of about three hundred miles traveled by stage. The time occupied was eight weeks and one day. It extended into or through twenty-four States and Territories, in which many of the principal towns and cities were visited and generally time enough spent in the various places to gain considerable knowledge of them. The principal ones were Washington, D.C.; Lexington and Louisville, including the Mammoth Cave, Ky.; St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo.; Pueblo, Manitou and Denver, including the Garden of the Gods, Col.; Hot Springs, in Las Vegas, and Santa Fé, N.M.; Los Angeles, Yosemite Valley, San Francisco, Monterey and Sacramento, Cal.; Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah; Chicago, Ill.; Niagara, N.Y., and others of less note. Our route was beside the principal rivers for long distances, such as the Rio Grande, Colorado, Arkansas, Kansas, Green and Republican. Several of them we crossed repeatedly, the Mississippi and Missouri each twice. I met with and saw representatives of many nationalities that I had not met before, such as the Spanish with the Indian mixture, in New Mexico, retaining the habits and customs of their ancestors, while the persevering Yankee who has settled among them retains his own just as tenaciously. I had some acquaintance with the American Indian, as found settled in villages, and becoming civilized and Christianized to some extent, and pursuing the business of agriculture for a livelihood; I met with others who evidently retained their wild, roving habits. They were clad in their warlike customs, faces painted red, feathers of wild birds stuck in their hair, with tomahawks and other warlike weapons fastened to their sides; I saw the Chinese in their settlement of 50,000 in the heart of the city of San Francisco, with the same manners, customs and religion as their ancestors of thousands of years past; I also met the Mormons of Utah and Salt Lake City, who are made up from many nationalities, with their heavy, leaden countenances, but still surrounded with marks of enterprise and worldly prosperity. Our journey carried us over and among many of the grandest and most lofty mountains of the globe, through snow storms and snow banks in the month of June, and through the deepest and longest gorges that the world can produce. All this was accomplished, through the good providence of God, without an accident or delay to our train, and without illness or any accident to any one of our party.

### **Daily Notes of a Trip to California and Return, taken by Solomon Mead, in 1886=7.**

**December 8th, 1886.**

Left Greenwich, Ct., to take train to New York. Our horse being lame, I walked to the depot, carrying a valise and bundle weighing about forty pounds. The morning was clear and pleasant, sufficiently cool to make exercise enjoyable. I met Clarence Mead at the depot, who is to go with me. Reached the Grand Central Depot, New York City, about 9 A.M. There we met Clarence's father, Mr. Frederick Mead, who accompanied us on the 42d street cars to 10th avenue. At this point Clarence's mother and sister met us and accompanied us on the cars to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's pier, near Canal street, where we were to embark for San Francisco, on the ship Colon, by way of Aspinwall and Panama. Found the agent of the Pacific Mail line, who weighed our baggage and conveyed it to our stateroom. The ship was to sail at 12 M., but the time was extended to 1 P.M. Our stateroom, which had been selected some days previous, was room No. 13, on the main deck, which was quite comfortable, and convenient to other parts of the ship. It had three berths—the lower one we found convenient to store our baggage in. The price paid for passage was seventy dollars each. This included baggage of two hundred pounds each, as well as transportation. The cabin passengers numbered about forty-five, and there were about twenty-five or thirty in the steerage. Many friends of the passengers were on the wharf to see the vessel sail and to express 65 their best wishes for a pleasant voyage. To prevent accidents, a rowboat patrolled the waters around the ship and dock. At 1 P.M. the ship moved from the pier and began her voyage, passing numerous vessels in the harbor, the imposing Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island, the shores of Staten Island and Long Island, and the coast of New Jersey, which was somewhat dreary with its snowdrifts. The atmosphere was cold, and overcoats were needed when on deck. I observed several villages on Staten Island, with their church spires rising above them. Soon after leaving Sandy Hook, our vessel came to a full stop. Looking around for the cause, I observed the pilot leaving the wheel and proceeding to the side of the ship. He climbed over the rail in the direction of the stairs, and at the same time expressed most cordial wishes for a pleasant voyage. He proceeded down the stairs to the water's edge. After waiting there a few minutes, a pilot-boat made its appearance, and a yawl containing two men left the pilot-boat and made its way to the ship. On this the pilot was transferred to the schooner, waving his hand to us as he left. His

occupation is very dangerous, and the pilots frequently lose their lives. A boat of this kind was lost in the late storm, with all on board. As the pilot passed over the rail, I noticed that one of the ship's officers handed him an envelope. We were told by the captain that it contained his fee of eighty dollars for piloting the ship out. After this stop of about ten or fifteen minutes, the ship proceeded on her way, with more regard for safety and comfort than for speed. Observed, as we passed along, the rows of buildings at Long Branch and Ocean Grove. At half-past 2 we had lunch. The evening sky was red and gorgeous as the sun sank into the sea, and as the shades of evening came on we passed the revolving light at Barnegat. The officers of the ship placed a white light at the front of the ship, a green light on one end of the captain's bridge and a red 66 light on the other. Dinner was served about 6 P.M. We were favored with a smooth sea and a bright, cold, moonlight night. The remainder of the evening was spent in the saloon. In the course of the evening I observed a man with a line and short rod of metal making his way to the rear of the saloon, where, taking up a round cap, he let the line down; this I was told was the carpenter, whose duty it was to sound the water in the hole at regular intervals, I think, of one hour. The three berths in our room were occupied as follows: the first by our baggage, the second by myself, and the third by Clarence.

### **December 9th.**

As usual, I arose early and went on deck in time to see the sun rise. I found the hands clearing up and washing down the deck. Yesterday was a busy day with them, making everything ready for the sea. To-day, at 1 p.m., the captain said, we have made 236 miles, which is at the rate of 10 or 11 miles per hour. He has the reputation of being one of the best navigators in the Pacific Mail service. In talking with me, he said he had followed the sea 45 years. Breakfast was served this morning at 9 o'clock. A cup of coffee can be had by those who desire something earlier. Much of our time has been spent on the upper deck, where I have jotted down most of this journal. After breakfast I observed sea fowls, or gulls, in large numbers, picking up bits that were thrown overboard. Some of the bolder birds would fly near the stern of the vessel in order to obtain an advantage over their fellows in picking up the best pieces. After finishing their meal they mostly disappeared. In conversation this morning with the first officer of the ship, I spoke to him about my son, who went out in this same ship last April. He asked me his name. I told him it was Mead. He at once

replied that he remembered him well, and said he was a fine fellow, too. He charged me to give him his best respects. I spoke to him regarding my son's attempt to carry some maple 67 sugar with him to California, which, on account of the heat and moisture of the climate, he was unable to keep. Yes, he said, and the sailors had a good time eating it. The sea to-day has a dark green color, resembling green ink. The atmosphere is growing hazy. Now, at 3 p.m., we have sighted but one or two vessels, and they at considerable distance. There are comparatively few passengers on the ship, several of whom are business men, with their families, from Aspinwall and Panama, who have been on to New York and are now returning. They are very gentlemanly and polite, but at the same time very wide-awake. They speak English well, but in their conversation among themselves they speak Spanish, showing their animation and enthusiasm by their gesticulation, as well as by their words. From them I obtained considerable information concerning their native cities. The ship's chambermaid, who is the only female employed on the vessel, informs me that she has been in the service twenty years, and during this time has made over 100 trips without being wrecked. Though we have been out but two days, I have been very much impressed with the system and order with which everything is done, and that where there are so many departments, employing from 75 to 100 men. The commands of the officers are obeyed without comment and with speed and precision. Regularly at 12 m. each day, the captain takes his reckoning for the past 24 hours, giving the number of miles run, the longitude and latitude we are in, etc., posting a record of the same in a certain place, where all the passengers can see it. The reckoning of to-day gave a running distance of 247 miles; latitude, 32 degrees N.

### **December 10th.**

Up to this time we have experienced light winds and very smooth sea. I have known worse seas in Long Island Sound. But, as we have now entered the Gulf Stream, the vessel has a considerable roll, so that we have to use much 68 care in keeping our dishes on the table at meal time. In going on the spar-deck this morning, I found the sailors, under command of the first officer, busily engaged in bending the sails. Eight of them manned the yard arms, with great dexterity. Previously the wind has been dead ahead, but now it has changed to the east, and is blowing strong and steady; the captain has taken advantage of it, which quite perceptibly increased the speed of the ship, as

well as helped to steady it. We are already past the Bermuda Islands, and have crossed the Gulf Stream, though we have not seen the islands or any other land since we left the Jersey coast. The atmosphere having become soft and balmy, most of my time during the day is spent on the spar-deck in company with the rest of the passengers, in reading, conversing or writing. The air is gradually growing softer and milder as we proceed on our way southward. I apprehend that when we reach the tropics we shall find that Winter there is not greatly different from our pleasantest Summer weather at the North. The cold, snowy weather which we were experiencing at home we have now left behind us for many months. At 11 a.m. we passed at a distance a large steamer bound north. The wind of which we spoke continues to blow stronger and stronger, in consequence of which the sea runs higher and higher. We also passed a schooner, which, with all her sails set, almost seemed to fly. The effect of the gale was such that, at 6 p.m., many of the passengers were seasick, and in this way the gale continued during the night.

#### **December 11th.**

There has been no abatement of the gale, and not more than half the passengers appeared at the breakfast table. The waves seem to resemble snow-clad hills, which give the effect of light and shade, reflecting the light from their tops, and seemingly disclosing patches of bare earth in the valleys. At 12 m., as usual, the captain took his reckoning, finding the run for the last 24 hours to be 260 miles; latitude, 28 degrees N. 69 The sky is clear; the wind has somewhat subsided, but there has been no perceptible lessening of the waves. The gentleman who regularly sits at my left at table had his cup of tea thrown up his coat sleeve. One of the passengers, who is on his way to South America to sell lumber, says the company he represents has 600,000 acres of pine land in Florida, and 86 sawmills. We have just passed a large three-masted schooner, headed to windward. It seems rather remarkable that we have seen so few vessels since we started. The thermometer registers 76 degrees, so that Winter clothing begins to be a burden; must soon begin to lay them aside.

#### **December 12th. Sunday.**

Last night the roll of the ship was heavier than at any time during our voyage, in consequence of the course of the ship being in the trough of the sea. I saw a rainbow this morning which, for size and brilliancy, was perfect; it extended from horizon to horizon, surpassing incomparably anything of the kind I have ever witnessed. Its brightness was such that it cast the reflection of another, almost its equal, directly under it. The gale has subsided for some time, so that the ship now rolls much less. At 11 a.m. the captain read the Episcopal service in the saloon, at which about one-third of the passengers were present. Showers are frequent, but short, and the air is very moist. We have just seen land for the first time. It is Watkins Island, belonging to England, about 10 miles by 5, of coral formation, supporting a few inhabitants. A lighthouse is building on the highest point, which the captain says is greatly needed. At 12 m., we have run 240 miles; latitude, 24 degrees N.; thermometer, 77 degrees. At 9 p.m. we passed Birds Island light. There is a group of three islands of that name, extending about 40 miles. They belong to England. Most of these West India Islands extend north and south. We also passed one named Castle Island. While running between these islands the sea is quite smooth and the heavy roll of the ship has ceased.

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### **December 13th.**

Went on deck at 5 o'clock, and observed two men on the lookout at the bow and an officer on the bridge. Some were hoisting sails and some putting up awnings to protect the passengers from the sun. We saw a large schooner at some distance. Sea smooth. Vessel proceeding without much rocking. The past night has been the best, for sleeping, that we have had during the voyage. Wind about east; sails set. 8.30 a.m., thermometer, 79 degrees. We are passing Cuba on our right. This island is 700 miles long by 300 wide, extending northwest and southeast. Much of the island is quite high, and some of it which we saw seemed to be unimproved. 10.30, we ran quite close to the island, and observed a lighthouse on the shore. Latitude to-day, 20 degrees N.; longitude, 74 degrees W.; distance run, 272 miles. At 2 p.m. we passed the Pacific Mail steamer Acapulco. Since last evening Clarence has been somewhat indisposed with a sore throat. At 10 p.m. we passed

Navassa Island on the west and Hayti on the east, but too far distant to be distinctly seen in the night.

### **December 14th.**

We have now entered the Caribbean Sea. We have the benefit of the trade winds, blowing steadily from the east. Have a moderately rough sea, and more rolling of the ship than we have had for the last 48 hours. The sky is overcast by drifting clouds, such as are produced by heat, wind and water acting together. 7 a.m.—The sailors are engaged in unfurling and adjusting the sails, to take advantage of the trade winds. 11 a.m.—The sun has dried up the clouds. Clear and smooth sea. At 11 a.m. each day the passengers have access to their baggage stored in the hold. Latitude at 12 m., 16 degrees N.; longitude, 75 degrees W.; distance run, 257 miles. A fire drill was gone through with this afternoon. The fire alarm was the quick, sharp ringing of the bell for a short time, when all the men attached to the ship hastened to their position in line— 71 line—offices, surgeon and all. Streams of water were poured forth on the ocean. The men remained in their positions for a few moments, when, at a signal from the steam whistle, they all returned to their former duties. About 9 p.m. a party gathered in the saloon and had music and dancing, with much jollity and fun. The captain's consent must first be obtained for entertainments of this sort. An Italian boy, who was attached to the ship in some capacity, furnished good music on the violin, receiving a collection in return for his services. The passengers are made up of several nationalities, mostly from the higher walks of life, intent on enjoying themselves. Not a vessel seen during the last 24 hours. The course of this steamship line appears to be out of the regular path of other vessels. Nothing to be seen but sky, water, stars and ship.

### **December 15th.**

I left the warm, uncomfortable stateroom at 5 o'clock, and went on deck. I found one person stretched out on chairs, where he had spent the night. The air on deck, though warm, was pure and balmy. There is a steady, strong breeze blowing from the east—the trade wind, which continues to blow steadily for months. This wind is a great aid to sailing vessels. The chief engineer on this

vessel informed me that the revolutions of the wheel had averaged 50 1-10 revolutions per minute. He calculates how much coal and water it takes to make a pound of steam. Notice is put up that all check baggage in staterooms must be removed to the baggage-room before 3 o'clock to-day. Latitude, 12 degrees 9 minutes N.; longitude, 78 degrees 19 minutes W.; distance run, 279 miles, the longest distance made in any one day during the voyage. No vessels seen from dawn till night. I have looked this evening, to find the north star, but without success, for I find we are too far south, and that where we are it is below the horizon.

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### **December 16th.**

Rising as usual and going on deck, I find we are nearing land and Aspinwall Bay. Reached the wharf about 7 a.m. Several sea vessels of different nationalities were moored in the bay, and others were lying at their wharves, receiving and discharging their cargoes. After breakfast we went ashore. Aspinwall is built on low, flat, marshy ground, little higher than the sea, said to have been formed by the sea. A very large proportion of the inhabitants are negroes. It contains but few women or children. It is a place where few care to live, except as business draws them. About all the business comes comes the railroad, which transports freight and passengers across the Isthmus, from ocean to ocean. At Aspinwall the tide rises three feet; at Panama twenty feet. There is considerable business done by this railroad, for all nations, in transporting freight. The building of the ship canal at the present time brings a large amount of business. Most of the laborers on this canal, it is said, come from Jamaica and Cuba. While walking in Aspinwall, we called on Mr. Stavey, who holds the position of paymaster in the Panama Railroad Company, and who received us with the greatest hospitality and kindness, conducting us about the portion of the city belonging to the railroad company, which is very handsomely improved, and is used for shops, etc., and residences for the employees. This city is named from its founder, a man from New York. The life of the city is entirely dependent upon the railroad. I saw, for the first time, cocoanut trees with the fruit growing upon them, and other tropical products. We spent seven hours in the city, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., when our train started for Panama. In crossing the Isthmus, we pass nearly all the way through low, wet, marshy ground, covered with dense vegetation; one continuous

jungle. I saw some of the most miserable habitations I ever set my eyes upon, and their occupants correspondingly miserable. 73 The railroad and the canal doubtless furnish them employment from which they derive means to supply their wants, which are very few. They evidently belong to the lowest grade of civilization. No duties are levied on merchandise here; neither are licenses required for saloons, which are very numerous. The effects of strong drink are said to be much less severe, on account of the perspiration caused by the excessive heat. A great portion of the way, the canal was plainly in view, on which considerable work has already been accomplished. Short branches of railroads have been constructed to carry the excavated earth from the canal. We observed many temporary villages along the canal, the population on the line of which is estimated at 100,000, being mostly employed on the canal and railroad, together with their families. We reached Panama about 5 p.m., and were at once conducted to the wharf of the railroad company. There we embarked on a tug, which took us to our ship, the Colima, which was lying some distance out in the harbor. When we got on board it was about dark. There was some delay and confusion on the steamer, the purser being considerably under the influence of liquor. Our stateroom was finally assigned us, and we settled down again. Soon after this, supper was served. In the meantime the ship got under way. The trip across the Isthmus is of great value, on account of the suggestions and instruction a person may derive from it. Going on deck after supper, we found the air of the Pacific Ocean to be sweet, balmy and pleasant. The ship proceeds in a southern direction in order to get out of the harbor. I retired somewhat earlier than usual.

### **December 17th.**

Arose early, as usual. The coast of Central America here is bordered by ranges of high mountains. Observed seven head of fat steers and eight or ten fine, fat sheep, beside large coops of turkeys, fowls and ducks, to be killed as needed, to supply the ship with fresh meat and poultry. To-day's 74 reckoning shows the latitude to be about 7 degrees N.; and longitude 81 degrees W.; distance run, 187 miles. Passed an island called Montosa, not very large and of oval shape, the surface rising from every side to the centre, where it appeared to be of considerable height. It was situated some

distance from any other land, and has no inhabitants. In accordance with the regulations of the company, the fire drill was practiced.

### **December 18th.**

Clear and a fine, steady breeze. The surface of the ocean smooth, and the air balmy. The regular routine of daily morning work is to wash down and polish up the ship. Cleanliness is carefully attended to. The ship's crew appear to be all Americans, except the waiters, who are Chinese. This ship, the Colima, is larger than the Colon, and is very roomy; a fine, noble vessel. She is somewhat old, runs quite steadily and smoothly, and makes but about ten miles per hour. Perfect discipline and order prevail here, as was the case on the Colon. This ship has but one cat, while the Colon had four. The coast is still lined with mountains. Honduras and the other Central American States are all being passed on our right. At 11 a.m. the sailors are at work tarring the rigging. They are distributed over all parts of it, from the masthead to the deck. There seems to be no time for idleness or loafing for them on shipboard. They are painting, cleaning, mending sails or ropes, together with the regular routine duties, which devolve on them, day and night, in their regular watches. At 1 p.m. a large volume of smoke is seen issuing from the peak of a high mountain in Costa Rica. If it were in the night, I think fire could be seen, as well as smoke. The reckoning to-day shows latitude 9 degrees 22 minutes N.; longitude 85 degrees 17 minutes W.; distance run, 264 miles.

### **December 19th.**

Sunday. Arose and went on deck about a half hour before sunrise, in order to avail myself of the sweet air of the Pacific in this tropical climate, and to greet the sun as it 75 arose. We have now left behind us Costa Rica, with its mountain-lined coast. Since last evening the wind has increased perceptibly, which adds to our comfort. It is somewhat remarkable that on the way from New York to Aspinwall we found the wind blowing mostly from the south, and now, from Panama to San Francisco, we find it blowing from the north, both being head winds. Our course is west by north. Off the coast of Nicaragua, somewhere near here, it has been proposed that a ship canal should be built from ocean to ocean, by way of a lake. Schools of flying-fish are frequently seen flying from

the bow of the vessel, having the appearance of flocks of chippy-birds, such as I have observed on the land; they fall back to the surface of the water again, after flying a few rods, and then disappear from sight in the water. The captain of the Colima says this is the pleasantest season of the year on the Pacific Ocean. The spacious promenade deck is protected from the sun by awnings, while the air has free circulation underneath, and the view in either direction is unobstructed. At noon the officers of the ship are taking their reckonings from the sun, by means of their instruments. We passed large schools of porpoises. We also frequently see large sea turtles floating on the water, appearing to go together in companies. It is truly impressive to see how full the ocean is of animate life. The land and the ocean are alike in this respect, but each is filled with creatures adapted to their respective spheres of life; in the ocean, from the whale down to the smallest particle which has animate being; on the land, from the now extinct mastodon to the smallest insect, how full is the Universe of God, as seen in His works! Those who do not thus see Him are without excuse. Latitude to-day, 11 degrees 56 minutes N.; longitude, 83 degrees W.; distance run, 271 miles. I have to-day learned the captain's name; it is J. M. Coperley, and the first officer's name is Dow; purser's, Kelley; doctor's, 76 Fisher. To-day I saw evidence of the accommodating disposition of a sea turtle, in his giving a large sea fowl a ride on his back. The sky at the horizon, usually beautiful, was rather more strikingly so at sunset to-night.

### **December 20th.**

This morning we are sailing off the coast of Guatemala. Its coast, like that of the other Central American States which we have passed, is bordered by mountains. The Central American States, I am informed, are all independent of each other, and the mass of the people are poor, illiterate, and governed mostly by chiefs, called presidents, who rule with unlimited power. Legislators are elected by the higher classes, but suffrage is not allowed to the masses. The thermometer has recently averaged about 80 degrees. The mountains of Guatemala are much higher on the coast than any I have observed as we have passed the other Central American States. Clouds resting on them give the appearance of smoke. On passing a certain port at 11 a.m., our vessel hoisted its colors. A large business is done here in the coffee trade by the Pacific Mail steamships, the coffee being carried both to New York and San Francisco, by way of Panama. It is a rule on these ships that the

children shall take their meals, under charge of the chambermaid, before the adults. Latitude to-day, 14 degrees N.; longitude, 92 degrees W.; distance run, 239 miles. Course is northwest.

### **December 21st.**

It is said that in passing across the Gulf of Tehuantepec a gale is met three times out of four. It began blowing last evening about 6 o'clock, and the gale has continued up to the present time, 6 a.m. We found the change from the monotony which we have had for some days previous rather pleasant than otherwise. No expense or pains seem to have been spared by the company in providing for the safety and comfort of the passengers. Each stateroom is amply provided with life-preservers for each inmate, in case of sudden emergency. There are no less than eight open boats on the deck or hanging on the davits, each having water casks fastened securely under the seats. These casks have a capacity of fifteen gallons each, and are filled regularly on leaving port. The bung-hole passes through the seat, and a faucet is placed in the end of each cask. Fastened in the same manner, under another seat, is a metallic bread chest. At each end of the boat there is an air-tight compartment, rendering it impossible for the boat to sink. There are also sails, mast and six oars, wrapped up in canvas, lying lengthwise in the centre of the boat. So the boat is ready to put to sea at any moment, thus providing safety for any emergency. For lighting and other uses, kerosene is not allowed on the ship, but oils of other kinds are used. The employees on the ship form a fire company, which has a weekly drill. Large quantities of water can be thrown by steam power. In regard to the boats, I omitted to state that each of the boats has its number conspicuously painted upon it, and that each of the crew is assigned to his own particular place, thus saving much time and confusion in case an emergency should arise. Temperature today, at 9 a.m., 72 degrees, and yesterday it was 80 degrees. It is growing somewhat cooler. The Mexican coast has been constantly in view since yesterday noon. A range of mountains, with some lofty peaks, lines the coast. The wind and sea have much subsided since we have crossed the Gulf of Tehuantepec. The great diversity in the shapes of the rocks and the hues of the foliage, and peculiar forms of the mountains in Mexico, as seen from our ship, might furnish an artist a fine opportunity to exercise his skill. Latitude, 15 degrees N.; longitude, 95 degrees W.; distance run, 247 miles.

## December 22d.

With the exception of a few small showers near Aspinwall we have met with no rain since leaving Greenwich. The atmosphere now seems to have more moisture in it. 78 Saw, a few miles distant from us, two or three whales, their large backs rising considerably above the surface of the water. Latitude at noon, 16 degrees N.; longitude, 99 degrees W.; distance run, 247 miles. We are now nearing the harbor of Acapulco. The shores are very rocky and mountainous, and indicate poor soil, having but a stunted growth of shrubbery. In entering the harbor we pass through a narrow, short inlet. The harbor and town are well protected from wind by the mountains which surround it, leaving at their feet only room enough for a moderate sized bay. At the base and on the sides of the mountains nestles the old Spanish town of Acapulco—how old I do not know. From its appearance, I judge there has been very slight advance and improvement since its first existence. Streets narrow and rough everywhere. No vehicles or wheeled conveyances used, but in their place the backs of men and mules and the heads of women are employed for carrying. Nearly all buildings are constructed of adobe or stone, one story high, and are without taste, symmetry or order. The roofs are made of tile or thatch. People appear to be happy and contented in their mode of life, with few wants, and those easily supplied, subsisting much on fruit and fish. I also noticed some fowls and pigs. The people need very scanty clothing and comparatively no fuel, and they dwell in slightly built houses. There seems to be good order in the place. On one side of the town is an old fort, which is now used partly as a penitentiary and partly as a hospital. This we visited, and on our way we met the convicts being marched down to the town for some purpose. They were guarded by police or soldiers on either side, armed with guns and bayonets, while one mounted on a white horse brought up the rear. We halted as they passed us, and observed their movements to be as regular as drilled soldiers. We found the penitentiary rather an unsavory place, and made but a short stop. Passed several armed 79 guards as we entered the gate, but as we had a permit we were allowed to pass in, with a nod. These people appear to be smart in their way, but are bigoted Roman Catholics, and are so much under the priests that a few years ago they murdered some Protestant missionaries who were sent to them. The market place is in keeping with the other buildings in the place. Bought some lemons at a very reasonable price. Tropical fruits are plenty and cheap. The

town has no wharves. The ships anchor off the town. All communication or transportation is done by boats and lighters. The rowboats are generally canoes or dugouts. I counted 25 rowboats and 4 scows. The latter brought water, coal, sacks of coffee and freight. These belong to the Pacific Mail Company. The rowboats nestled about the ship, filled with all sorts of tropical fruits, shells, flowers, fowls, eggs, parrots and other tropical birds. The occupants of these boats consisted of men, women and children, who manifested a pleasant rivalry among themselves in trying to dispose of their wares to the ship's passengers. So, too, there was quite a pleasant strife among them to see who should carry the passengers ashore, for which they received 50 cents for the round trip. There is a lighthouse on an island at the entrance of the harbor. After a stay of about seven hours, our ship got under way and proceeded out to sea, at 10 p.m. We were soon on the Pacific Ocean again, and shortly after I retired for the night.

#### **December 23d.**

At 10 a.m. we passed the Pacific Mail steamer Guatemala, bound for Panama. Latitude, 17 degrees N.; longitude, 101 degrees W.; distance run, 137 miles.

#### **December 24th.**

The sun arose this morning at 6.40. At 7 a.m. the ship is entering the port of Manzanillo. This town, like Acapulco, is built at the foot of mountains, on the shore of the bay. It appears to be more advanced in modern improvements than Acapulco. There is a railroad entering the town 80 through a gorge in the mountains about wide enough to admit the road, running back into the country about 40 miles. The City of Mexico is distant from this place about 250 miles. The trees on the mountains are much larger and of more luxuriant growth than I have yet observed on the Pacific coast, giving the town a more beautiful appearance than any I have yet seen. On the peak of one of these mountains, which overlooks both the coast and the town, is a humble looking building, with a mast surmounted by a cross set up near it. I was told that this is a place sacred for prayer and intercession for the sins of the people, and, that there might be no interruption, night or day, the priests take turns. No one is allowed to intrude upon this place; but it is kept sacred as a place of

humiliation and prayer. Near the foot of this mountain of prayer is a neat, modest looking church. Standing about near it, without much appearance of regularity, were neat-looking houses, which seems to be the fashionable part of the town. Extending to the east, in a semi-circular shape, runs the bay, the railroad entering near the circle. The poorer classes seem to have their dwellings in the rear, but in close proximity to the town. The ship is discharging a large amount of merchandise, which is brought from New York, consisting of boxes, bales, coils of barbed wire for fencing, etc. The only means of transferring freight from the ship is in lighters, as there seem to be no wharves on this coast. The tide at this port is said to rise and fall ten feet. I observed but one other sea vessel in the harbor. This was a very handsome Danish brig, named Doran Fano. Numbers of the natives came on board, some to sell their wares and trinkets, others, of the better classes, to see the ship. Among these I observed a gentleman, with his wife and two or three children, all richly dressed in silks and jewels, evidently those of first standing in society. The ship was no doubt a great curiosity to them. A grampus, or young whale, made its appearance near the ship. His spouting above the water, as well as his size, attracted considerable attention. People of the class described continue coming to see the ship. Schools and seminaries of learning receive considerable attention in Mexico. The language taught, of course, is Spanish. Among other freight, the ship is receiving on board square logs of manogany, cedar and lignum vitae—common timber in Mexico. Most of this timber was floated out to the ship, but some, being too heavy to float, was brought in scows. Young Mexicans, without clothing on them except short pants, swim in the water and fasten ropes to them, by diving and coming up on the other side, so that they could be hoisted into the ship. They displayed much skill and dexterity in this business. Coffee also, in large quantities, is being hoisted into the ship. All freight received and discharged from these ships is done by steam power. The rapidity with which it is handled by this means is remarkable. A handsome young deer was brought by one of the natives in a rowboat for sale. One of the passengers purchased it to take to San Francisco. Some San Francisco papers were obtained at this port, dated the 15th of the month. These contained some items from New York—the first news I have had from the East since the 8th of December. At 8 p.m. the ship hoisted anchor and left for the port of Manzanillo, and proceeded to sea.

## **December 25th. Christmas.**

We passed a large number of peculiarly repulsive looking fish, which some of the crew called devil-fish. I had a conversation with a German Jew, with whom I formed a pleasant acquaintance, and whom I found to be a genial, kind-hearted man, evidently a person of strong mind. He is on his way to his family, in San Francisco, where he spends part of the year. The rest is spent in Panama, where he has a jewelry store. His name is Broma. We were seated together 82 at the table, which gave me a good opportunity to become acquainted with him. I had frequently thought of asking his views concerning Christ, and as it is Christmas, I took the opportunity. He said Christ came to be a reformer, but came before the world was ready to receive Him; that He was no greater man or reformer than Moses; that all which is said concerning the Holy Ghost and the resurrection is fictitious, and was made up long after His death; in fact, that He was a remarkable man, but nothing more than human. I then spoke to him about the Messianic prophecies in Isaiah. He replied that they were very deep, and required much investigation and study, but they didn't refer to Christ, at any rate. He said he didn't believe the present body would be resurrected, because it is a body of sense, but that the resurrected body would be entirely different. I asked him if he thought friends here would know each other after the resurrection. He thought not, but he believed that all would finally be made happy. Latitude 21 degrees N.; longitude 105 degrees W.; distance run, 160 miles. At 3 p.m. we reached San Blas harbor. As we entered the harbor we passed, on our left, two white-coated rocks of singular formation. The Health Officer of the port, with his aids, came on board the ship, as some contagious disease had been brought into the place by the landing of passengers from some ship. They conducted a careful examination in regard to the health of the passengers on board. At this port, as at others, large numbers of natives came out with tropical fruits and boxes of cigars in their boats, for sale. The cigar business seems to be very flourishing here. Many of the passengers and crew bought of them, for the reason that they can be bought cheaper here than in America, on account of the duty. On the coast at this place valuable pearls are found. One recently taken near a large rock is said to be worth several thousand dollars. Valuable gold and silver mines exist in Mexico. An instance was 83 related to me to-day of a certain man who owns one of these mines of special value. He has constructed his house directly over it, and only takes out the ore as

he needs, from time to time. While he receives no interest his capital is secure. I am told that on Christmas morning the bells are rung early. Afterward, at 5 a.m., early mass is said, and after that hour the bells are rung quite lively, but no more through the day. Every one is supposed to enjoy himself in his own way, and most of them become intoxicated. I am told that President Diaz makes a very good official, and does the best he can; that Protestantism is tolerated by the government. Although there may be outbreaks similar to those against the Chinese in the United States, yet the government does the best it can to protect them. I am also informed that, while the soil on the coast is comparatively worthless for agricultural purposes, there is in the interior of the country a large extent of high tableland, 6,000 or 7,000 feet high, the soil of which is very fertile and productive, and the climate very salubrious and healthful, and that a system of railroads is now being built by northern capital, the termination of which is to be at El Paso, in Texas. This will promote the interests, not only of agriculture and manufacture, but also the mining interests. I understand that there are very few Protestant churches in Mexico. There are four Protestant churches in the City of Mexico—a Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian, with a total of about 400 members, very few of which are natives. The greatest success of the mission work has been in educating orphan children. The orange crop is said to be large in Mexico this year.

### **December 26th. Sunday.**

The natural world here is beautiful. The village, the sky, the air and water, all combine to raise the thoughts of man to that Being whose goodness is over all His works. The work of discharging the cargo into lighters continues the same on this day as on any other, and there is nothing in the arrangements on the ship to lead one to suspect it is Sunday. The captain appears to attend strictly to his duties as commander of the ship, but the passengers consider him rather a grouty man. My observation leads me to conclude that there is little African blood in Mexico, but almost entirely a mixture of Indian and Spanish, but in Central America there is much more African mixture with the Indian and Spanish. At 3.30 p.m. the ship weighed anchor. The anchor is raised by steam, thus saving manual labor and giving more expedition. On remarking to the first officer of the ship that I understood that an island had recently been discovered which was unknown hitherto, he said that such discoveries were of frequent occurrence at the present time. We occasionally see rocks which

are painted white to make them conspicuous at night. This is said to be the work of the coast survey. At 4 p.m. we passed, on our right, a very large whitish rock, isolated at some distance in the ocean, on which we saw congregated a great many sea fowls, evidently a favorite resort for them. We passed, at some distance on the left, several small islands. Pearls are said to be found on the beach, and one very valuable one was found on the big white rock, which brought \$1,700 here, and \$3,500 in Europe.

### **December 27th.**

Just before the sun arose we entered the harbor of Mazatlan. At the entrance there is a large, cone-shaped rock called the "Lion's Head Rock," from its resemblance to a lion's head. There is a lighthouse, and other high and prominent rocks on either side of the entrance of the harbor. At 9 a.m. I set off in a rowboat, with a number of others, to visit the town, which is situated about three miles distant. The price of the round trip is 75 cents Mexican money, which is equivalent to 60 cents United States money. We went through several of the principal streets of the town. We found this place much in advance of anything we have seen in Mexico. Among other 85 manufacturing establishments there is a large foundry. There is quite an imposing theatre. We visited a large cathedral, which has been building for about fifteen years, but is now nearing completion. It has a lofty ceiling, and its pillars and arches give it quite an imposing appearance. The buildings in the town are mostly made of brick coated over with cement. The streets are paved with cobblestones, but are quite rough. Here we saw wheeled conveyances for the first time. In Mexico the animal employed is the burro, a cross between the jack and the mule. The city is supplied with water brought in from the country on the backs of these animals. There is a framework supported across the back, which carries a water jar on either side, each containing several gallons. The water is sold about the place much as milk is sold at home. From the number of animals I saw thus loaded I concluded that this is quite an extensive business. The better class wear shoes, but most of the people wear sandals or go barefooted. There is an ancient church in use at present, which, I presume, will be superseded by the new cathedral. As is the custom here, they have no floor, but the ground is paved instead. By permission of the sexton we entered the church. We found a row of wooden seats around the sides—the only seats in the church. We observed several females kneeling

on the pavement, as the worshipers are expected to do. In the centre of one side a priest sat in a box, so fully inclosed that only his legs and hands were visible. On either side of the box there was a small opening, at which we saw women in private communication with the priest. Numbers of others seemed to be kneeling and waiting their turn. We remained seated, unnoticed, until we chose to retire. Observed cocoanut and banana trees in the place, in courtyards and parks. There were also seats in the parks for those who might choose to rest. Whatever the cause may be, the fact is very plainly brought out here, as I 86 believe it is in all Roman Catholic countries, that they are far inferior to Protestant countries in improvements of all kinds, and in all which goes to make society enjoyable.

#### **December 27th.**

I observed a larger number of the African race in this place than I have seen anywhere since leaving Panama. At 3 p.m. the ship again hoisted her anchor and got under way, having now made the last port before reaching San Francisco, which place we expect to reach next Monday. Our course now is due west, on which I understand we are to run for six or seven hundred miles, after which our course will be about due north.

#### **December 28th.**

I have observed that since we have passed the tropics we have heavier dews. At 10 a.m. passed Cape St. Lucas. We saw several whales at a distance. The coast of Lower California appears to be a barren, sandy, rocky coast. The thermometer to-day stands at 70 degrees, and the atmosphere is very comfortable for sleeping at night. The instrument used to take the reckonings is called the sextant. Latitude 23 degrees N.; longitude, 110 degrees W.; distance run, 218 miles.

#### **December 29th.**

Strong headwind all day. No land or anything worthy of note sighted during the day. Latitude, 25 degrees N.; longitude, 113 degrees W.; distance run, 232 miles.

**December 30th.**

The sky, which has been clear for so long, has now become overcast with clouds, reminding us that we are approaching a change in climate. Witnessed a rainbow this morning; not brilliant as those seen in the tropics, but resembling those at home. At midday the clouds are gone.

**December 30th.**

Latitude, 25 degrees N.; longitude, 115 degrees W.; distance run, 207 miles. The past twenty-four hours we have had a strong headwind.

**December 31st.**

The wind has abated. Latitude, 31 degrees N.; longitude, 118 degrees W.; distance run, 227 miles. 87 Passed an island near the coast, said to be used largely for goat raising.

**January 1st, 1887. Saturday.**

As we are sailing along the coast we see the coast range of mountains, which extend about the whole length of California. For the last few days an instrument called a log has been attached to the stern of the vessel. It consists of an instrument on the end of a long cord, which keeps revolving with varying rapidity, according to the speed of the vessel, and records the speed on a dial placed at the stern. Observed the sea gulls about the ship in much larger numbers than heretofore. They fly quite close to the ship, as no one is allowed to molest them. Latitude, 34 degrees N.; longitude, 121 degrees W.; distance run, 255 miles.

**January 2d.**

During last night we had a strong wind and a heavy sea. The ship rolled quite heavily. Thick fog this morning. The ship stops occasionally and runs at slow speed. The captain was on the bridge all night. At 8 a.m. the vessel stopped. A fog horn was heard to our left, said to be on an island off the coast. At 9 a.m. a pilot was taken on board. He came from the island in the direction of the

fog horn sound. Passed a lighthouse on our right, likewise the Seal Rocks and Clift House. Also passed a fort on our right while sailing through the Golden Gate. The fog has lifted now so that objects on the shore are more discernible. The sea gulls which have accompanied us in very large numbers now, as we come to the wharf, light on the roof of the building which covers it, and almost conceal it, evidently without any fear of molestation, and as tame as our pigeons. We landed at 10 a.m. Our first business was to find a boarding place for our short stay in San Francisco. Our baggage was inspected by a custom house officer. As we emerged from the covered dock we were beset by runners from the different hotels. After some time spent in looking about we decided to stop at the Marlborough House, corner of Second and Fulsome streets. Took dinner at 4 o'clock, after which we set out to take a walk until it was time for evening service. We found the First Congregational Church in time for evening service. This church, of which Rev. C. D. Barrows, D.D., is pastor, is at the corner of Post and Mason streets. Observing a notice of a meeting of the Young People's Christian League, three-quarters of an hour before the regular service time, in the parlors of the church, we passed in with others. The rooms were soon filled with more than could find seats. A large number took part in very short addresses or prayers, interspersed with singing. At the close of the meeting we repaired to the audience room above. Dr. Barrows preached with much force and power. The words of his text were: "Be ye sure of this, the kingdom of God has come nigh you." He pointed out some of the ways in which the kingdom of God had come nigh his hearers. The singing was very fine. Some of the selections were sung by a quartet, and others by the whole congregation, who sang with much animation. I missed the deep voice which I heard here four years ago, but the present one was very good. The services closed with the hymn, "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." After this we returned to our rooms.

### **January 3d.**

Went out to make some calls on some people I knew. At the request of Mr. Fosdick, I called on Maim & Winchester, 220 Battery street. I bought a copy of Van Dyke's "Southern California" to present to my son. We made inquiries concerning the best way to go to Southern California. Took extensive walks with Clarence about the city. Being desirous of finding some New York papers, we went in search of them in the evening, and were informed that they could be found at the Mercantile

Library and Reading Room, which is in Brush street, near Kearney, over the California Theatre. We found here a 89 very large room, well filled with people, who were reading books and newspapers. At first we found no New York papers until we inquired for them of the librarian. He politely invited us inside the railing which inclosed his desk, and took from a desk copies of the New York Tribune and Herald. They were only six or seven days old. We were invited to take seats at the Librarian's desk, and for an hour or two we read these papers. They were the first New York papers we had seen for nearly a month. We returned to our room about 9.30, and retired to rest. We were somewhat tired, having spent most of the day in walking about the city.

#### **January 4th.**

After due consideration we decided that it would be best to take the coast line steamer, which sails to-morrow morning at 9 a.m. At the office of the company we bought our tickets for \$15 each. We returned to our rooms at 11 a.m. After dinner I took a walk with Clarence about the city; went into the Stock Exchange. The excitement seemed to equal that in the New York Stock Exchange. The exchange is near Nevada Block. After this we walked up California street, ascending some very high and steep hills, over which the cable roads run with perfect success. Saw several fine residences, with grounds and lawns beautifully laid out. We packed our baggage for tomorrow's passage on the steamer, which leaves at the foot of Broadway at 9 a.m. It stops at several ports on the California coast, as far as San Diego. The passage includes board. I am told that the present season is the coldest of the year, and it is just comfortable to walk without overcoats. The people appear to enjoy fine physical health as I observed them passing about, owing, no doubt, to plenty of exercise in the open air, and not having to be shut up in heated rooms in Winter time.

#### **January 5th.**

Took breakfast at 7 a.m. Left our hotel at 8 a.m., with baggage in hand. Having some distance to walk to 90 the steamer, the "Ancon," Captain Ackley, we required some time. This steamer is not the regular steamer on the line, but is used as a substitute, and is rather an old side-wheeler. The captain says she is the safest and most comfortable steamer on the line. We were introduced to

our captain at our hotel last evening, he being a boarder there. By the time we reached our vessel our baggage began to grow somewhat heavy. We reached the steamer in good time, and found quite a number of passengers going to Southern California. There was much stir and confusion in getting located in the staterooms. Our stateroom is on the land side, and has three berths. Owing to the number of passengers, we were obliged to take a third person in with us. As we were passing through the Golden Gate we had a fine view of a portion of the city, as well as of the high rocks to our right. The weather is fine and the sea comparatively smooth. Sea gulls escorted us out. On meeting incoming vessels, a part of them left us to escort them in. At 1 p.m. we passed a lighthouse. Having a fair wind, the sails are set. Our ship rides the sea buoyantly, being made of wood, and being a side-wheeler, she rolls less. I am surprised at the number of passengers who are seasick. At 7 p.m. we passed a lighthouse. In the evening we had some singing, accompanied by a piano. On each of the three steamers we have been in there has been a piano in the saloon. There have been passengers on each who could play on them, thus relieving the monotony of sea traveling. We retired about 10 p.m., and had a fine night's rest.

### **January 6th.**

About daylight this morning we reached the port of San Luis Obispo, 200 miles from San Francisco. We landed at a commodious wharf, with vast storehouses to correspond. Freight was discharged and received at this port. Spent less than an hour's time, after which the ship moved out of the harbor and proceeded on her way. Noticing the healthy condition of several children on board, I remarked this to one of the parents. He said that the children were healthier and stronger here than at the East, and it is easier to raise them. I also inquired of him concerning the different complaints which children are subject to in the East. He said these complaints were thought little of here, as they came in a lighter form. We dined at 1 o'clock. At 1.30 p.m. we passed Point Conception, where there is a lighthouse. Beyond this, on the shore, we saw herds of cattle, also a wharf for whalers. Whales are said to come near the shore about here. This is in Santa Barbara County. The method of catching the whales is to shoot a harpoon, with rope attached, from a gun on board the boat. I noticed a gull standing on the topmast apparently taking observation of what was passing on deck, besides getting a free ride. There are two kinds of these fowls, one of much

darker color than the other. We passed inside of several islands, the largest of which, I understand, is named Santa Rosa. I observed on the coast now, at the foot of the mountains, patches of ground recently plowed and cultivated. At a point off Santa Barbara oil rises to the surface from a well under water. There are other wells on shore also. On this point there is a lighthouse. We found the wharf in the harbor very long and large. As our boat was to remain here two hours, and the evening was bright and moonlight, we took a walk to see the town. This is the county seat, and the main avenue is a mile or two in length. It appears to be a place of considerable size and much business. In addition to its advantages by sea, a railroad is being constructed into it. I observed numerous stores, a large hotel and several churches. Real estate is held at very high prices. This is an incorporated city of six or seven thousand inhabitants. The long pier is owned by one individual. The steamer left this port at 9 p.m. The moon shone brightly on the sea. Retired shortly after.

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### **January 7th.**

At daybreak we reached Wilmington and San Pedro, the port where we landed. Our breakfast was kindly furnished at an early hour. This appears to be quite a business place, being the seaport of Los Angeles. Started on the cars for Los Angeles about 7 a.m., which place is about thirty miles distant. The railroad runs for considerable distance on piers and low ground, and across the bay on spiles. From Wilmington we proceed at a more rapid rate of speed. We pass through fields where the stalks of last year's corn crop are still standing. Our train stopped at Compton, which appears to be quite a village. Saw plowing going on, and considerable quantities of alfalfa growing along the railroad, also extensive rows of evergreens. Reached Los Angeles at 8.30 a.m.. Here Clarence and I were to go in different directions, he to take the train to Orange, I to go on to San Geronio on the Southern Pacific. His train was to leave at 9.30 a.m., giving him time to get his baggage changed and to purchase his ticket. As the train on the Southern Pacific didn't leave till 2.40 p.m., I had to wait until that time. While waiting some five hours in the depot, I met with a number of others who were going to different points in Southern California. Some go on account of their health, to find a more genial and salubrious climate, and some to better their condition in places where the comforts and requirements of life are easily met. After leaving, at 2.40 p.m., the first village of any importance

was Pomona. We passed through some fields of dry mustard stalks. The next place we came to was Ontario. This is a large place, and is well laid out. It contains a fine hotel, and is fast improving, promising to become a favorite place. Next place was Colton, where a branch road to Riverside intersects and a branch road runs to San Diego. After leaving this place we ran up a steep grade at a low rate of speed. We reached San Geronimo between 6 and 7 p.m., the place where we were 93 to leave the cars and ride by stage for twelve miles to San Jacinto. We found the stage waiting, ready to receive passengers. I found the stage well filled with trunks, three mail bags, and two passengers besides myself. Arranged thus, we started for San Jacinto. Our way was mostly through a rough, mountainous country, with short turns on the edge of high precipices, on the side of the mountains, which, I presume, in the night, none but a careful driver and one who is well acquainted with the road could follow. From his conversation, I should judge that he had been a resident of California for a long time. He told us, during our night ride, of stage robberies and murders which had been committed on this route, one of which had happened within a year, pointing out the spots as we passed. Surely, no more sequestered or favorable spots for such deeds could be found than those which we passed through. We arrived at the end of our route in safety, about 9 or 10 o'clock p.m. I put up at the Glendale Hotel, kept by Mr. Rowell. This hotel is a new, well-kept, temperance house.

### **January 8th.**

Took a walk around to see the place and to find Mr. Edwin Mead's residence. I soon found it, without any difficulty, situated about a quarter of a mile from the village, on Central avenue. As I approached the house, I saw a carpenter at work outside, whom I found to be Mr. Mead's son-in-law, Mr. MacBeth. Knowing each other by reputation, we felt like old friends. He invited me into the house, where I met Mrs. Mead and her daughter, Sarah, from whom I received a very cordial reception. Mr. Mead came in soon after, and he, with Mr. MacBeth, invited me to take a walk around the village, during which they introduced me to many of the inhabitants. As I then wished to go to my son's place, a man in the village very kindly offered to take me out. It is a distance of about three miles out, on what is called the mesa land. After proceeding part of the 94 way, we met my son, Mr. A.N. Mead, with his family, in his carriage, on his way to the village. The gentleman who was conveying me out refused any compensation for his services, and I changed my seat for

one in my son's carriage. I returned with him to his house, which I found to be a very comfortable home, pleasantly situated, with good, convenient outbuildings. He soon after drove me around a 140-acre tract, the boundary of which was marked by a furrow. After dinner, I wrote a letter home, to Emma, and also one to Clarence, at Orange. We also drove quite extensively in the valley during the afternoon.

### **January 9th. Sunday.**

Last night was cool. Ice formed about the thickness of a window pane. In the morning I attended a union service of the Congregationalists and Methodists, held in the latter's church. Miss Miller, an evangelist, is holding protracted meetings in this place. She is a person of very winning manners and of much zeal and ability. She came from the East. The Rev. Mr. Palmer, who was formerly a settled preacher here, but has now become a local preacher, delivered a sermon. His text was, "It must needs be that offenses come, but woe unto that man by whom they come." There are three churches in the place—Methodist, Congregationalist, and a Holiness church. I was introduced to the Congregational minister, Mr. McCunn, and several others after the service.

### **January 10th.**

Rode with my son to see the tract of land, consisting of 3,000 acres, belonging to the Fairview Land and Water Company. This tract is also called "Florida." The company furnishes water to all those buying land of it. The tract is partially divided up into town plots, and the rest of it divided into 20-acre farms. To any one who will put up a house of a certain value, on certain town lots, they will give the lot, in order to start the town. This tract is near the mountains, from which the water is brought down through a ravine. The water is conveyed in iron pipes over the tract. This is about eight miles from San Jacinto. As we passed up the ravine into the mountains, we saw immense flocks of quail. My son regretted very much that he hadn't his gun with him. The company is a stock company, the stock of which is in the market.

### **January 11th.**

Rode to the village and to various other points in the valley with Abie. Met many people of the place, whom I found very sociable and agreeable.

#### **January 12th.**

Rode with Abie to Mr. MacBeth's, who, with Mr. Edwin Mead, accompanied us to the Fairview tract. There we found the only orange orchard which I have seen in the valley. It looked thrifty, and the trees had a fair quantity of oranges on them. It was situated in a gorge of the mountain and well protected.

#### **January 13th.**

Rode most of the day with Abie. Received a letter from Mr. Frederick Mead. Observed on the plain many holes in the ground, the homes of gophers and coyotes. These animals are considerable of a pest and annoyance. The gophers gnaw the roots of trees and the coyotes take fowls, etc., and are usually heard at night near the house. My son's two dogs keep them off. A still more annoying and destructive animal is the jack-rabbit, which also lives in holes in the ground. They are about three times as large as the cotton-tail. They do great damage at certain seasons by gnawing the bark off young trees, which have to be protected from them. They are so swift that scarcely any common dog can overtake them in a fair race. But one man, who owns several greyhounds, makes quite a sport of catching them.

#### **January 14th.**

Rode to the village in the morning. In the afternoon, I went out with Abie to get a load of dry wood, in the timber belonging to the box factory, which is given for the getting. So many had preceded us in this that we found very meagre picking. This box factory has bought the timber on several hundred acres of land, with five years' time to take it off and work it up into lumber and into slabs of thicknesses from 1-16 of an inch to 1 inch. It is used for making raisin and orange boxes, etc. I bought a 40-acre tract of land in section 160, and also 160 acres in section 163.

**January 15th.**

Went to the hot springs this morning with Abie. They are situated some two miles from the village, on the side of the mountains. These springs are much resorted to for bathing. The water is quite warm as it comes from the mountains. To me the water was too warm to be comfortable, but it became very comfortable as I became accustomed to it. The water is impregnated with borax, iron and sulphur, which is said to be beneficial for many complaints. The land around the spring, about 100 acres, has been purchased by two or three individuals, for the purpose of putting up a hotel. In going to the spring, the bed of a wide river, which is now dry, must be crossed. We returned home about 7 p.m.

**January 16th.**

Sunday. Attended the Congregational Church in the morning. A commodious hall is now used as a place of worship. The congregation has no church edifice of its own, it being at present under the Home Missionary Society. The pastor, Rev. Mr. McCunn, preached from the text, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The church has 22 members and two deacons, Edwin Mead and Mr. Barber. The Sunday-school has about 50 members.

**January 17th.**

The appearance of much-needed rain has passed. There was some frost last night. Went with Abie to Mr. Edwin Mead's this morning. Stopped on our way to see a well belonging to Mr. Olmstead, said to have the greatest flow of any well in the valley. He is carrying water by a nine-inch iron pipe on to the mesa land, to be run into a reservoir, the surface of which is to be 1 square acre. It is to be 9 feet deep.

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**January 18th.**

Rode to the village with Abie, and from there we went to the timber portion of the valley, to look at a ten-acre piece of timber belonging to a man named Carpenter. Had the refusal of it at \$67.50 per acre. A fire to-day burned over some of the land I have bought.

### **January 19th.**

Busy most of the day on Abie's place. Edwin Mead called in the afternoon. Abie began harrowing, in preparation for plowing.

### **January 20th.**

Abie began plowing. Some rain has fallen which has made the ground suitable for tilling. Sent a letter of eight pages to Mr. Frederick Mead. Rode to the village in the afternoon. Mr. Webster came to see about renting some of Abie's land for pasture for four months, at 30 or 40 cents per acre. The Webster family consists of a mother, a daughter and three or four sons. They own large numbers of cattle and large tracts of land.

### **January 21st and 22d.**

Spent part of the time in looking over land which I have recently bought. Went to look at some timber land about two and a half miles from the village. Received a letter from Augustus I. Mead.

### **January 23d. Sunday.**

Clear and cool. A light rain last night, but no rain to amount to anything has fallen since last Spring, about ten months ago. The present year has proved one of the driest known in California, and the Winter one of the coldest, ice having formed one-fourth of an inch thick in San Jacinto. The frost soon disappears after sunrise. The frost is heavier in this place than in those of lower altitude. The altitude of San Jacinto is 1,400 feet, and it is situated fifty miles from the coast; it is nearly surrounded by mountains, whose tops are more or less covered with snow, in plain view. Attended the Congregational Church in the morning. Reached the village in time for Sunday-school, which

was taught both by the minister and 98 other teachers. The teaching seemed to be clear and good. The subject of the sermon was on the duty of praising God with the heart. The preacher said that meditation on His works, providence and words leads us to praise Him. He said we should praise Him by our lives and by our voice.

**January 24th.**

Drove to town to take Lillian to school. Assisted Abie in making a hayrack for his wagon. The hopeful signs of rain have failed again. There have been but two moderate rains in ten months, and in this time every day has been a good day for outdoor work.

**January 25th.**

Ice again this morning. Abie is drawing alfalfa hay, which he bought of Mr. Inwall.

**January 26th.**

Assisted Abie in drawing dirt to fill up around the house. Received a letter from Emma.

**January 27th.**

In my walk to-day I found a dead jack-rabbit, caught in the picket fence of the vineyard. He was caught while trying to get into the vineyard. Witnessed the operation of baling hay. It is pressed into a small compass quite hard, and bound with wire. It is done by two-horse power. There are four or five men working on it. Six tons are an ordinary day's work. Abie raises water by a windmill, which is so constructed as to afford him two good rooms, one above the other. The lower room is used for storing provisions, and the upper as a storeroom, but might be used as a bedroom.

**January 28th.**

The day spent in observing the Messrs. Todd repair the windmill. Frost last night. Sent a letter to Emma.

**January 29th.**

Went to the hot springs and took a bath. Received deeds for land bought on the mesa tract. Abie is making a sewer, or drain.

**January 30th. Sunday.**

Attended the Congregational Church. The pastor being absent, an Episcopal clergyman named Mr. Anderson read the Episcopal service, and preached. 99 His text was Pilate's question to Christ, "What is truth?" There were enough Episcopalians in the congregation to carry on their responsive readings. Mr. Anderson is the president of the bank and a real estate agent. The day has been very clear and the atmosphere invigorating. "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about them that fear Him."

**January 31st.**

Observed Webster's cattle, consisting of some 500 head, which are daily in view. At night they are shut up, but during the day they are kept in limits by horsemen and dogs. Abie cemented the room under the windmill.

**February 1st.**

In the morning I drove to the village. In the afternoon I walked to see the excavation for a new reservoir, which is being made by Mr. Olmstead. It is for irrigating the mesa land.

**February 2d.**

At the request of Mr. Kerr, I went to see his place, of about 130 acres, all fenced in. He has a brick house, with all the modern improvements, and a windmill for raising water. Two-thirds of the property is in alfalfa land, and there is some timber along the river. His price for the place, stock and implements, is \$24,000. Visited Edwin Mead and took dinner with him.

### **February 3d.**

Worked with Abie, building a chicken yard. One of Abie's horses cut his hind leg by jumping over a barbed wire fence.

### **February 4th.**

Abie's colt Dixie was wounded on the knee by a kick from one of Webster's horses. Webster has sixty horses on the plain, where they live on the wild grass. Dixie got among them. The grass is very nutritious and abundant. Cows do well on it, and their milk makes fine butter, which makes Abie's butter much sought for by families in the village, who are regular customers and pay an extra price. I visited Mr. Warner's place, about a mile from Abie's, but in plain view. He has extensive orchards and vineyards set out. No one in the valley appears to 100 be more intelligent or to be better informed about the different kinds of fruit adapted to the valley, and about the manner of setting out and cultivating them. I extended my walk from there to Edwin Mead's vineyard of twenty acres, which is in the same neighborhood. The next place I visited was the Olmstead reservoir, the excavation of which is nearly finished. It is to be hoped that he will be successful, for as yet no flowing well has been obtained on the mesa land, though two attempts have been made to get it from artesian wells. From here I walked straight across the plain to Abie's house, a distance of about a mile and a half.

### **February 5th.**

Some frost last night. Call from Mr. Thurston to take me to see a tract of land, consisting of 440 acres, which he wishes to sell at \$17 per acre. Abie and I went with him around the whole tract. At the corners of the piece he has placed good-sized stones. It is between one and two miles west of Abie's, and runs up to the mountains. We returned about noon. Mr. Thurston stayed to dinner. In the afternoon I took a walk with Abie to Mr. Warner's, to consult him about the selection of trees for setting out. We found him very cordial and willing to give his advice. He has about forty acres

in fruit and vineyard. We walked with him to see Mr. Edwin Mead's vineyard, which is but a short distance from his place. We returned home about 5 p.m.

### **February 6th. Sunday.**

Some rain fell last night, which, as usual, falls in the form of snow on the mountains, on which there is more now than we have observed at any time during the Winter. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. MacBeth called at the house and took tea.

### **February 7th.**

Rain through most of the day, came in showers, but not enough to prevent Abie from plowing. Walked to the village. Called at Mr. Edwin Mead's and borrowed an umbrella of them. Had my account balanced at the bank.

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### **February 8th.**

Rode to the village in the morning. Lillian is to board at Mr. Edwin Mead's for a week or so, as Abie is too busy plowing to take her to school. Made a number of calls in the village, and returned about 1 p.m.

### **February 9th.**

A rainy night, followed by a rainy day. This is the first day which has been stormy enough to prevent one from working outdoors for the last nine months.

### **February 10th.**

Clear, after yesterday's rain. Started to walk to the village, but Mr. Fairchild overtook me, and I had a ride with him part of the way. After spending several hours in the village, I returned through Mr. Estidillo's land and woods. I reached Abie's about 4 p.m. Called at the new house, which is building

opposite Mr. Edwin Mead's, and asked the cost of such a house, consisting of two stories, and found that it was \$1,900. Received a letter from Emma, and likewise one from Clarence, from Orange, where he is at work, and seems to be doing well. Also received a paper from San Francisco.

### **February 11th.**

Spent the day in sowing wheat and barley for Abie. I did a good, full day's work, in order to help along. Was thoroughly tired. A man, who has come out to get things ready to bring his family from Iowa, is building a house west of Abie's and setting out a vineyard. He expects to bring his family out next Fall. He returns to Iowa in the Spring to improve a farm which he owns there. Observed a new method of sowing grain. It is to ride in the back of a wagon and sow the grain; a person in the front drives the wagon. It was John Mead. He sowed twenty acres in one day. There is a great deal of snow on the mountain tops, which is very beautiful, as contrasted with the grotesque-shaped rocks protruding from it.

### **February 12th.**

Walked west across my land to the new house being built by the Iowa man, and made a call on him. Mr. Ryan, the furniture dealer, came out from town to have a 102 hunt for jack-rabbits with his three greyhounds. They captured three rabbits. The race between the hounds and rabbits is quite interesting and exciting to witness. In the afternoon I went to the hot springs and took a bath. Received a letter from Cristy. Sent a letter to Emma, with check. When we reached home it was after dark, and Abie could not find his cows, so they were not milked that night, the first time such a thing has happened.

### **February 13th. Sunday.**

Considerable rain fell during the past night. Attended church in the morning. The text was: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." After church we made a call at Mr. MacBeth's. Abie and I took dinner there, and Mrs. Mead and Lillian at Mr. Edwin Mead's. Reached home about sundown. The roads are quite muddy in places.

**February 14th.**

More rain during the night. Walked to the village. Met Mr. Kerr, Mr. Thurston, Mr. Barber, Mr. Green, Mr. Kerr and Rev. Mr. Anderson. Rode back with Mr. MacBeth, who went with me to see a tract of twenty acres of land adjoining mine, which I bought at \$45 per acre, he to have the crop of barley now growing on it.

**February 15th.**

Heavy rain fell last night, with a strong wind from the southeast. The earth is now thoroughly saturated with moisture, and much snow rests on the mountains. Rode to the village. Called on Mr. Barber, and took dinner with him. Received a letter from Emma. Abie received a letter from Jas. Rundle, of South Norwalk, Conn.

**February 16th.**

Rainy weather still continues. Rode out with Mr. Thurston to look at land. Wrote letters to Cristy, Emma and Clarence.

**February 17th.**

Weather clear and cool after the rain. Started to walk to the village, but got a ride part of the way. Observed that Mr. Olmstead had started the engine to pump 103 water from his well to the reservoir on the mesa land. Received two newspapers from Emma. Walked all the way back, in a direct line. In the afternoon I called on Mr. Warner, and on my way had a talk with Mr. Gaston, who was plowing. He is a man who is much esteemed here.

**February 18th.**

Spent the day in sowing barley. Sowed about six acres.

**February 19th.**

Clear and cool. In the morning I rode to the village with Abie. In the afternoon I walked out to the west on the mesa land.

**February 20th. Sunday.**

Some frost. Abie's horses needed rest, so we didn't go to church to-day.

**February 21st.**

Walked to the village and back, a distance of three miles each way, which took me three and a half hours. Found the Tribune, from Emma, in the postoffice. In the afternoon I walked out on the mesa land, and toward evening I saw such large flocks of wild geese flying northward as I have never seen before.

**February 22d.**

Sowed barley in the forenoon. After dinner walked over to see some land belonging to Mr. Mitchel, which is being plowed. Stopped on my way to see the Iowa man. A Mrs. Seaman and daughter called on Mrs. Mead, also Sarah Mead, daughter of Edwin Mead.

**February 23d.**

Walked to the village and back. Abie hard at work plowing.

**February 24th.**

Busy about the place. Called at Mr. Butler's. Noticed the clouds resting below the mountain tops, obscuring them from view.

**February 25th.**

In the morning I walked to the village and back. In the afternoon I walked over to one of the mountains and climbed to its top. Part of the mountain is included in land that I own. Observed on

its sides quails in great 104 quantities. While in the village this morning, I met Mr. MacBeth on his way to the cemetery to select a plot of ground for a man to bury his brother in. Mr. MacBeth is one of the committee. The cemetery is about two miles west of the village. I must have walked eight or ten miles during the day.

### **February 26th.**

Assisted in work about the place. In the afternoon I rode to the village and met several real estate agents, who had land to sell in larger or smaller quantities.

### **February 27th. Sunday.**

Attended church in the morning. Mr. McCunn preached on "Sowing the Seed." The subject was probably suggested by the season, which is the sowing time for this part of the country. He preaches in Paris, about sixteen miles distant, on Sunday evenings, and he gave out notice that a church was to be formed there to-day. Afternoon and evening I rested at home. The weather is getting quite dry again. Smallpox has broken out in Los Angeles, and a man took it there and died about eight miles from this place. It has caused some alarm.

### **February 28th.**

Walked to the village. Took dinner at the Glendale Hotel. Bought two lots, with a house on one of them, in the village, each 60x150 feet; price, \$500; near the centre of the village.

### **March 1st.**

Sowed six acres of barley. Finished about 3 p.m. Mr. Ryan came out again to-day, with his greyhounds, in a wagon, after jack-rabbits. Abie is harrowing in barley. The roads are growing quite dusty. Received two newspapers from Emma. In sowing barley to-day I came across a large snake stretched out in one of the furrows. He was of beautiful colors. Having no means of making a successful combat with him, I told him that if he would not molest me I would not molest him, so

I passed on sowing barley. But when I came in calling distance of Abie, I told him to bring some weapon, which 105 he did, and killed the snake. It did not turn out to be a rattlesnake.

### **March 2d.**

Walked to the village. Rode out with several real estate agents to look at different pieces of land which they had to sell. My time was thus occupied from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Abie bought a span of three-year-old black mares somewhere below the village, with a good double harness, for \$375. I rode with Dr. Merchant to see a tract of woodland which runs down to the box factory. There is a flowing well on it, and it is fenced in. There is another tract, which was a part of this, lying on the south. This is also for sale. It has a house on it, with some fruit.

### **March 3d.**

Signs of rain have failed. Abie is trying his new team at the plow. Two of the Websters rode from their large herd of cattle to the house for a drink of water. They were accompanied by their six dogs, which not only keep the cattle together, but also catch jack-rabbits. They had two which were caught that day. A Mr. Barrett, who was with us to-day, says that the best hotel in San Diego is the Commercial. In my walk to-day I saw large quantities of white sage bordering the mountains. It is from the flower of this that the bees are said to make their best honey, for which Southern California is noted. Its excellence I can attest to from experience. It is often as low here as 4 cents per pound.

### **March 4th.**

Walked to the village in the morning. Mr. Warner called on me to-day to see if he couldn't borrow some money. There seems to be considerable activity in the sale of real estate at this time, caused, no doubt, by a rumor of a railroad coming into the place. This is uncertain, and may be a premature report, but it all helps the sale of real estate, which is the leading business of the place.

### **March 5th.**

Abie went to Beaumont early this morning to 106 get some bundles of trees for himself and for some of the neighbors. Mrs. Mead and Lillian went with him. They didn't return till after dark, on account of the load and the road lying across the mountains. Walked to the village. Received deeds of the two village lots from the parties I purchased them of, and also a mortgage deed from Mr. MacBeth on his hotel. Spent most of the day in town, and returned home about sundown.

### **March 6th. Sunday.**

All nature seems to raise our thoughts to the great Creator of all, especially so in presence of mountains in their grandeur. And shall not man, the noblest of all His works, praise Him? I attended church in the morning. The pastor preached from the text, "I am the Rose of Sharon," showing how Christ resembles the rose in comparison. He spiritualized the subject. Wild geese continue their flight to the north in vast numbers, taking advantage of a fair southerly wind.

### **March 7th.**

Rode to the village in the morning with Abie, who brought back with him fifty posts for fencing. Wild geese continue to fly, giving warning of their approach by their peculiar quack.

### **March 8th.**

Rode to the village in the morning. Took dinner at the French Restaurant. The family to whom I have rented my cottage in the village has moved in. Rode out with Mr. Kerr, the agent of the land company, to see some land which is laid out for a town on the mesa. But the expectation of securing an artesian well having failed, after sinking a drill 900 feet, the place has not built up. Rode with him to see other 20-acre plots in that neighborhood, toward the mountains.

### **March 9th.**

Rode to the village and bought two more village lots. Price, \$310 for the two. Spent the day in the village. Called on Mr. MacBeth and took dinner with him. After dinner I took a ride with a real

estate agent, Mr. Beal, to view land 107 in various locations. The price of land ranges from \$40 to \$450 per acre. Received papers from Emma. Rode home about dusk.

### **March 10th.**

Took a walk over the mountains, and also over my 160-acre tract. From the top of the mountain I had a fine view over the valley and surrounding country. Called on a man named Swope, who has a residence in one of the notches of this mountain. He came here on account of his health, which is quite poor; he appears to have consumption. He came from Missouri. His aged father and some of his sisters are with him. On his place is a spring, coming from the base of the mountain, of no very great flow, but said to be perennial. This Mr. Swope is of the opinion that the chief village of the valley will ultimately be on the mesa land. This has almost invariably happened in other places, the town changing from the lower to the higher elevation. He also thinks that the spring on his place is forced up through seams from some subterranean river. A man by the name of Dodd, from Glenview, who has bought a lot of barley and barley hay from Abie, came to-day to take a load of it. Mr. W. W. Willard, who had been staying at Compton, Cal., came to Abie's this evening. He was in poor health, and desired to make a beneficial change of locality, further from the ocean.

### **March 11th.**

Sowed the lawn in front of the house this morning. Rode with Abie and Mr. Willard to the village. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Lamb spent the day at Abie's. They are neighbors living about six miles south, in the valley. They were sociable, intelligent ladies. Rode to the village in the afternoon. A Mr. Blackman, from Kansas City, who had bought a five-acre plot of unimproved ground in the village, wishes to sell it to me.

### **March 12th.**

Went with Abie to get a load of alfalfa. I loaded it, and found by weight we had 2,600 pounds. Signs of 108 rain have failed. In getting the hay, Abie drove the four horses together. Took a drive with Mr. Willard in the afternoon to my land near the mountains. Later in the afternoon I drove to

the village. Helped plant potatoes, peas, set out strawberries, etc. Irrigated in front of the house. The water is raised by the windmill and carried around in trenches.

### **March 13th. Sunday.**

Mr. Willard and I rode to church together. None of the rest of the family attended. Mr. McCunn's text was, "Arise, thou that sleepest, and Christ will give thee life." The morning is clear and cool, but grows warmer as the day advances.

### **March 14th.**

Drove to the village, and spent most of the day there; walked back. Sent a letter to Augustus I. Mead. Took dinner at the Glendale Hotel. Went to see a place of five acres in a grove near the brick kilns. Mrs. Mead, in riding the horse Kate after the cows, got a fall.

### **March 15th.**

Rode to the village with Abie and Mr. Willard. Came back by way of the box factory to look for firewood. Bought five acres of land in the woods, near the brick kilns, with house, barn and outbuildings on it. On the track are about 100 large forest trees. Vast flocks of wild geese continue to fly over the valley in the same direction as before.

### **March 16th.**

Rode to the village in the morning. Spent the afternoon in making trenches for water around the alfalfa patch. In the evening we attended a supper given by the ladies for the purpose of paying for a plot, bought to build a Congregational church on. It was largely attended. Many who attended did not belong to that society. The ladies did themselves great credit. Price of supper, 50 cents each. The net proceeds amounted to \$80.

### **March 17th.**

Went to the village in the morning. Returned by way of Mr. Inwall's alfalfa stacks, to assist Abie in loading 109 hay. Reached home about 4 p.m. Took dinner at the Glendale Hotel. Had many pleasant interviews in the village, as usual.

**March 18th.**

Went to the village in the morning. Rode about the valley with real estate agents. Took Mr. Blackman's contract off his hands for the block in the village, at the price which he had agreed upon, \$2,200. Paid \$300 down, and the balance due any time before February.

**March 19th.**

Spent most of the day at the village. Took dinner at the Glendale Hotel. Returned with Abie in the evening. Mr. Willard appears to be slightly better.

**March 20th. Sunday.**

Attended church in the morning. Mr. McCunn preached on the subject of the Children of Israel giving one-tenth of their income. He thought, with other requirements, this amounted to one-quarter. In the afternoon rode down with Abie and family and Mr. Willard to Mr. Lamb's.

**March 21st.**

About the place in the morning. Walked to the village, and rode back. Sent a letter to Mr. Frederick Mead. No. 1 West 58th street, New York City.

**March 22d.**

A heavy easterly gale began blowing last evening, and continued through the day with increasing strength driving the dust-like clouds through the air. It was unobstructed in its course across the plains until it reached the mountains. People mostly kept within doors, but Abie and I rode to the village and plowed a furrow on the line of my village lots, and did a little repairing on my stable.

Returned about 11 a.m. Went to work with Abie to brace the roof of his barn to prevent its blowing off. Abie bought a riding plow from Mr. Gaston, for which he paid \$45, and brought it home. In the evening I received a letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Palmer of Fall Brook. Saw notice of the death of Harry Peck, of Greenwich, Ct., who died suddenly on the 14th.

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**March 23d.**

Yesterday's gale was the heaviest ever experienced here, according to those who have lived in the valley thirty years. The roar in the mountains, as we heard it, might be compared to several trains of cars, or thunder, as it was heard in the valley. Two or three frail barns were blown down. Abie is setting out strawberry plants, shrubbery and trees. Had the bounds of my block in the village defined. Call in the evening from Mr. MacBeth.

**March 24th.**

Signs of rain have again failed. Call from Mr. Smyers, a real estate agent, with a Mr. Tucker, from Boston. Abie is trying his second-hand riding plow. Lillian brought home a young goat, which somebody gave her in the village. Received a letter and papers from Emma. The family, with Mr. Willard, drove to the village. Mr. Willard wished to consult a doctor.

**March 25th.**

The sun looks somewhat watery. Rain is greatly needed for vegetation. Took a walk out on the mesa with Mr. Willard for about half a mile. He had to stop frequently to gain his breath. Spent some time in watering the lawn and the alfalfa.

**March 26th.**

A moist, misty morning, equal to a light shower. Busy about the place in the morning. In the afternoon drove to the village. Received a deed for my town block and paid the balance due on it. Went with Rev. Mr. Anderson to my lot in the woods to have the bounds defined.

### **March 27th. Sunday.**

The nights are cool, as usual, but as the sun comes up it grows warmer. Attended church in the morning Mr. McCunn preached on the character of Joseph. He said that, though he was not particularly sensitive, yet when he was quite young he could not read the story of Joseph without bringing tears to his eyes.

### **March 28th.**

In accordance with a previous arrangement, 111 Mr. MacBeth came, with his buggy, about 10 o'clock this morning, to go with me to the village of Fall Brook, about forty-five miles on the California Southern road. Mrs. Mead and Willard drove to the village. Passed around from Abie's to the north of the mountain, and drove through the next valley, called Pleasant Valley, where there are several houses and ranches. The next valley we came to was Don Magolia's Valley. He keeps large herds and supplies San Jacinto butchers with beef cattle. Here we passed on, through a gate, in a southwesterly course, until we came to a ranch, where we found water and a barn in which to feed our horse, and eat our lunch. The man of the house treated us very hospitably. After an hour's stop we passed on our way. This place is said to be fifteen miles from San Jacinto. We drove on at a steady gait of four or five miles per hour, until we reached Temecula, which place we reached at about 3 p.m. This is a railroad station on the California Southern Railroad, and the largest and greatest business place on our line to Fall Brook. After leaving this place and traveling about two miles, we entered a narrow gorge in the mountains, extending about three miles. The road, though narrow and of short turns, was well worked. After passing through this, we reached a village of a few houses and a small schoolhouse. From this place to Fall Brook we passed, here and there, a dwelling, but previous to this we had seen immense herds of sheep and swine on our route. We also observed considerable horehound growing, and also wild flowers of various shapes and hues, and

the general appearance of vegetation shows us that we have got beyond where there is frost, and where there is more moisture. The soil on this route appears to be unadapted to alfalfa, and flowing wells could probably not be obtained, but water can be obtained by digging to the depth of six to eighty feet, and from the broken, hilly character of the 112 country, I judge the water must be good. The soil and climate are such as, it is said, do not require irrigation, and are quite productive, even on the tops of the hills. This was corroborated by the growth of vegetation on them. About ten or twelve miles before reaching Fall Brook, we passed over a long stretch of road which was very difficult to travel, requiring great care, slow driving and much caution to avoid serious accident. It apparently has not had much attention, judging from its deep gullies, washouts and short, narrow turns. But for three or four miles, near the village, the road was good, though somewhat hilly. We reached Fall Brook at 6.30 p.m., and felt grateful for our safe arrival, after passing over such roads, unacquainted with them as we were. We found a small village, in a valley extending to the hillsides. It contains a hotel, kept by a Mr. Tomlin, who, as we afterward found, was a former neighbor of Mr. Edwin Mead in Illinois, and his wife was a boarder in Mr. Mead's family, and taught school in the place. They were married at Mr. Mead's house, in Illinois, probably some thirty years ago. All this made us feel quite at home. The place also has two stores, a small Methodist church, which is used by different denominations, including the Congregationalists. It also has a commodious schoolhouse, with ample grounds. It is a strong temperance place and has a weekly temperance paper. The railroad depot is about one and one-fourth miles from the village, but the road, though hilly, is well worked. About the depot there is convenient room and good accommodations. We drove to the depot, and this finished our day's experience.

### **March 29th.**

I omitted to mention that we called on the Rev. Mr. Palmer last evening, who came this morning, according to agreement, with his horse and carriage, to take us to see a place about three miles distant, of 150 acres, with large quantities of fruit of all kinds; probably more extensive than any 113 other in this place. The fruit consists of oranges, olives, figs, apples, apricots, peaches, plums and grapes. His olive orchard was the only one of any size which I saw during my stay in California. His place was all fenced in and under considerable improvement. About forty acres of it

were in fruit. He offered the whole for sale for \$12,000. We then drove nearly a mile further on, to what is called Old Fall Brook, where we saw some excellent lemons growing, and visited a fine live oak grove, which we found very pleasant, being located back of the proprietor's house. We stopped again on our return at Mr. Mitchel's place, where we received a sack of oranges. In the afternoon we drove out some distance into the country, in a southeasterly direction. We found the soil and improvements better than we had expected. The country was very sparsely settled, and we were surprised to see a little schoolhouse under a large tree, far from any other buildings. We found a bright school teacher and about fifteen scholars. I could hardly see where the children came from. We had intended to go to an ostrich farm, but on account of some change in the road, we could not go. Reached the village, on our return, about 4 p.m., and walked about the village with a real estate agent. Retired at 9 p.m.

### **March 30th.**

This morning we continued our walk of last evening about the place. After breakfast, took a walk with Mr. Johnson to see a forty-acre piece of land about one and one-fourth miles south of the village, on a hill. This he wishes to sell. It appears to be cheap at the price at which it was offered. After some consultation between Mr. MacBeth and myself, we concluded to purchase it. We left the place on our return to San Jacinto at 9 a.m., over the same road which we passed in coming out. Having gained some familiarity with it, it did not seem quite as bad as before. Reached San Jacinto about 6 p.m. 114 We had sixty-five fine oranges apiece, which we brought from Mr. Mitchel's farm, and a few lemons. Mr. MacBeth also brought a branch full of olives, from an olive tree on the same farm.

### **March 31st.**

Arose as usual, not feeling at all fatigued by yesterday's journey. Went to the village in the afternoon, and found papers from Emma.

### **April 1st.**

Went to the village in the morning. Sent seven deeds to San Diego to be recorded with the County Clerk. Had my bankbook balanced at the San Jacinto bank. Also sent a deed for Mr. MacBeth, and one for Mr. Underwood, from Pasadena. In the afternoon I assisted Abie in setting out fruit trees and grape settings.

#### **April 2d**

Spent the day in setting out grape vines and irrigating trees, etc. Rain threatens this evening. Mr. Willard's trunk arrived from Compton. Lillian's pet kid improves finely, and is quite cunning.

#### **April 3d. Sunday.**

Attended church in the morning. Mr. McCunn's subject was on Nathan, the leper. Willard did not attend church this Sunday or the Sunday before. Abie's windmill brings large quantities of water, sufficient for all purposes. Much of it is conducted about in ditches, for irrigating the soil.

#### **April 4th.**

A moist, foggy morning. Received a letter from A. I. Mead; a paper from Clarence, and one from Emma, containing a copy of Oliver Mead's will. Abie got a load of wood.

#### **April 5th.**

Assisted Abie in building a post and board and wire fence, and in irrigating.

#### **April 6th.**

Went with Abie to the box factory to get a load of wood, which is all prepared for burning in the stove. Returned about 9 a.m. In the afternoon worked at fence and irrigating.

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#### **April 7th.**

Received a letter from Frederick Mead. Received a deed from Mr. MacBeth for the twenty-acre piece. Irrigated trees till a shower came in the evening.

#### **April 8th.**

About three-eighths of an inch of rain fell last evening. Rode to the village in the morning. Sent a San Jacinto paper to Col. T. A. Mead, also one to Augustus I. Mead. Willard went to the village to see his doctor. Returned by way of the Stoddard place in order to see it. It is on Central avenue and is for sale. In the afternoon hoed potatoes and strawberries in the garden, etc. Abie put wire doors on his house to keep flies out.

#### **April 9.**

Some more rain last night, which continued during the forenoon. Abie oiled harness. I overhauled papers and put things in order generally. Willard is not feeling as well as usual. Rode to the village in the afternoon. Found a letter in the office from Clarence, who is still in Orange. Left the deed from Mr. MacBeth with Mr. Kerr, to be sent to San Diego to be recorded in the county records. Bought stamped envelopes. Saw Mr. MacBeth about going to Fall Brook again, to finish up matters concerning the forty-acre tract of land we bought there together. Quite a cool snap.

#### **April 10th.**

Damp and chilly day. None of us went to church. Fire was kept in the fireplace, principally on Willard's account.

#### **April 11th.**

Yesterday's strong, damp wind has ceased but little. Signs of more rain. Abie had a fine colt added to his stock last night. Rode to the village and back this morning. Had an application to rent my cottage in the village.

**April 12th.**

Rode to the village with a Mr. Clark, who called at Abie's, and I walked back. While in town agreed on the rent of the cottage. Mr. Edwin Mead, wife and daughter Sarah, spent the day till about 3 p. m., at Abie's. Received a letter from Emma and one from Benj. Wright, from Bridgeton, Me. Emma writes that Capt. Mayo died March 28. The coyotes were barking around the house in unusual numbers last night.

**April 13th.**

Rode to the village and repaired the roof of my barn. Drew \$275 out of the bank to pay for my half of the lot at Fall Brook. Lease made out and signed for the lease of my house by W. H. Green, revokable by either of us by giving fifteen days' notice in writing. Rent, \$8 per month, in advance. Returned by walking from the village. Abie is painting his house. Most of Abie's young trees are putting out buds and leaves, promising to live and grow.

**April 14th.**

Light rain last night. Left at 7 a.m. with Mr. MacBeth for Fall Brook to attend to unfinished business there. Proceeded on our way over the plains and over the same route we traveled before. Rain soon came upon us, but having a top buggy, we continued without any great discomfort, though we had the wind in our faces. The rain finally came on so hard that we turned into a barn, near a small house, in a narrow gorge in the mountains. The house was on one side of the road and the barn on the other. We put up our horse and buggy without permission. The man came out and invited us into the house, built up a good fire, which we enjoyed for an hour in drying and warming ourselves. He treated us in the usual hospitable California manner. Our horse was fed, and after eating our own lunch we proceeded on our way. This place, I judge, is about three miles from Temecula, in the mountains. We continued on our way, but the rain did not cease till we neared Fall Brook. We arrived at 4 p.m., and then went with the owner of the land to look at it more carefully than we had previously done. After this we returned to our hotel and hung up our overcoats to dry,

and having a good fire and good company, made ourselves quite comfortable until about 10 p.m., when we retired.

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### **April 15th.**

We completed the purchase of the forty acres of land this morning. Also called on Mr. Palmer, and went to see a man who owns land near that which we bought, a Mr. Dorbin. It is quite a fine place, on elevated ground, about one mile southeast of the village. There were a good house and improvements. We then left Fall Brook on our return journey. The morning was pleasant, though there were some indications of rain. We found it necessary to use much caution and care while going over the mountains and through the mountain passes. Stopped at a place about ten miles this side of Fall Brook, called Vista, to call on Mr. Rainbow, who resides about half a mile from our route. He had a large quantity of bees, an orange orchard and some lemon trees, well lodged with fruit, olive trees, peach, apricots, apples, pears and fine vineyard of a number of acres. His wife showed us a box of excellent raisins of their own make. The vineyard is only four years from the cutting, and last year bore many tons of grapes of the best quality. Irrigation is not needed on account of the moisture which comes down from the mountains. All the surroundings and soil are peculiarly favorable for raising bees and fruits of all kinds. We can attest to the excellence of the oranges and raisins from our own experience. We spent an hour at this place. It became necessary to hasten, as we had about thirty miles to travel before night. Passed through some light showers. Finding an oak tree beside a stream of water, which runs between Vista and Temecula, we rested there for about half an hour. We gave our horse a bait of barley, ate our lunch, which consisted of cakes, cheese and canned apricots. Mr. MacBeth had brought a jar of the latter from home. From here we proceeded, making only one stop, at Mr. Carpenter's to give our horse water. This is fifteen miles from San Jacinto, and is our usual stopping place when we come this way. We reached the village of San Jacinto about dusk, still having several miles to travel in the dark. But Mr. MacBeth being a good driver, we arrived at Abie's all right, the dogs giving warning as we neared the house.

### **April 16th.**

Found that much rain had fallen in San Jacinto during our absence. In the afternoon I rode to the village and collected one month's rent, \$8, from Mr. W. H. Green, for rent of house. Was told in the village that Mr. Estidillio had sold his large property, consisting of 11,000 acres of land, to a land company, most of the parties being from Louisiana, price \$13,500. Returned from the village, after which I had a call from Mr. Stephen Mead, who took dinner with us. Willard is fast failing.

### **April 17th. Sunday.**

The damp, cloudy weather still continues. Willard seems to be sinking fast, and it was thought best to send for the doctor to see him. I made all possible haste in driving to the village for him. He came immediately, reaching Abie's nearly as soon as I did, but we found that Willard had passed away soon after I left, at 10 a.m. At 12 I left to make arrangements for the funeral, which is to be to-morrow at 2 p.m., at the house. Went first to see Mr. MacBeth, who has charge of the cemetery, to obtain a plot of ground. On my way called on Rev. Mr. McCunn, who agreed to attend the funeral to-morrow. From here we drove to the cemetery. I selected Lot No. 6, 20 feet square, price \$5.00. We returned by an unusual route, across the plains, through Mr. Estidillio's gates, and arrived about 4 p.m. Mr. MacBeth came back with me, and we found his wife and Miss Sarah Mead there. Mr. and Mrs. MacBeth returned home, but left Miss Mead, who remained till after the funeral, to assist Mrs. Mead. Mr. MacBeth kindly agreed to supply conveyance for the coffin, and to attend to having the grave dug, which was done by his brothers-in-law, John and Stephen Mead. Mr. Butler, a 119 neighbor prepared the body for burial, and kindly offered to sit up half the night. He came accordingly, at about 8 p.m., but it was thought best to dispense with any watch, so he returned home about 10 p.m., and we all retired as usual. The deceased's name was William W. Willard, aged 25 years, and had no nearer relatives than cousins. He was a most estimable, worthy and able young lawyer of New York city. His complaint was catarrhal bronchial consumption, as pronounced by his doctor. He came to California in hope of being benefited by the climate. He had suffered from this trouble for about six years, and the disease had so fastened itself upon him that it had doubtless become incurable. On his way from New York he stopped at New Orleans for nine

days, where he contracted a cold, which much aggravated his complaint, so that he was unable to speak in a louder tone than a whisper. He spent a few weeks at first in Compton, Cal. Receiving no benefit he decided to try a town further inland, and being acquainted with Abie and his wife, he wrote to them, asking if he might come there. They invited him to come. He reached there March 10th. For some weeks he seemed to grow no worse, but fully held his own while the dry, clear weather lasted. But after this, a damp, wet, chilly spell of weather came, which shut him in from walking and driving in the open air, and he gradually grew worse. This weather continued about a week or ten days, and he died on the last day. The next day of the funeral, it became clear and salubrious and continued so. His characteristics were those of a dignified, kind gentleman, always the same. Polite without affectation, with a clear discriminating mind which was well stored with legal knowledge, a person rarely to be equaled in these respects. "So fades the Summer cloud away, So dies the wave along the shore."

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Last evening Miss Sarah Mead wrote several letters to different friends.

#### **April 18th.**

During the morning I assisted in getting ready for the funeral. The day being fine, there was a large attendance at the funeral, consisting of the best people in town. There were two deacons and a Sabbath-school superintendent. The text Mr. McCunn preached from was: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." Three hymns were sung by a quartet from the choir. One hymn was, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." The service was very appropriate. Fourteen carriages made up the procession to the grave, where we laid the body quietly to rest. A beautiful wreath and two other floral decorations were presented by the ladies and laid on the grave. We returned home about 6 p.m. On our return, and within a half mile of Abie's house, we saw a wild animal the size of a large dog. Within a few days I have seen flocks of birds which are new to me. They belong to the blackbird family and are very beautiful.

#### **April 19th.**

It is bright, clear weather, which promises to be permanent. Another colt was found this morning. Went to the mountain for stone to place at the corners of the tract of land near the brick yard. Also did the same with my two tracts on the mesa land.

#### **April 20th.**

Arose early and drove to the village to bring up a squaw, whom Mrs. Mead was expecting to wash for her, but she did not make her appearance, so I returned. About 9 a.m. I drove to the box factory with Abie, to get a load of wood, and returned at noon. As we did not succeed in getting the washer-woman we expected, Mrs. Inwall told Mrs. Mead about taking washing to the Indian village, where washing was done very nicely and satisfactorily, and she kindly offered to show us the way. So after dinner we set out together—Abie, Mrs. Mead, 121 Mrs. Inwall and myself, with a large bundle. On our way we crossed quite a wide river, on the other side of which the village is situated, at no great distance. The buildings in the village consisted mostly of adobe houses, with flat roofs. Saw no glass windows, except in the schoolhouse. They cultivate the soil to some extent, and have some fruit trees and vineyards. A small school at which we called is supported by the United States Government. It was after school hours, and the lady teacher invited us in. She said there were about fifty pupils on the roll. She spoke favorably of the scholarship and deportment of her pupils. She showed us some of their writing books and compositions, which were very creditable to the scholars. Both the men and women are employed as laborers by the people of the village. I suppose the land which they occupy belongs to them as a reservation. I have seen much of them about the village, but I have never seen one disorderly or intoxicated. Returned home about 6 p.m. Received a letter from Emma.

#### **April 21st.**

This morning I walked to the mountains where my land is, and went up to the top. Called on the man whose land joins on the south. Returned home about noon. In the afternoon I hoed in the garden, and about the trees, and puttied over the nail heads on the house, preparatory to painting.

**April 22nd.**

Drove to the village to consult Mr. Kerr concerning the government section lines, and the land company's lines. He said we must go by the land company's lines. Returned about 11 a.m. In the afternoon I resumed my work of puttying. A Miss Caldwell, who lives north of the mountain, called on Mrs. Mead.

**April 23rd.**

Mr. Swope came to take me to run out the line between his land and mine on the mesa. Starting at the east corner of my division, we measured 160 rods, the length of my land, in a straight line. Then, continuing on a straight line 122 on his division, we found at the end of his 160 rods the stake, which he had been unable to find before. So we thus settled the line between us, to the satisfaction of both parties, and relieved him of much perplexity about the matter. He brought me back to Abie's at 11 a.m., after being absent about three hours. In the afternoon I rode to the Indian village to get the clothes which I had left there to be washed. The water in the river had fallen considerably since we crossed the other day. The Spanish language is spoken by the Indians, except by the children, who are taught English. They do washing, but no ironing. Their price for washing is \$1.00 per bundle of any size. Returned about 6 p.m. Called at Mr. Inwall's and Mr. Hallack's.

**April 24th. Sunday.**

Attended church in the morning. Mr. McCunn's text was "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman hid in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened." In the afternoon I called, with Mrs. Mead, on the Swopes and Caldwells, our nearest neighbors in the mountains. While we were away Mr. and Mrs. MacBeth called. Mr. Caldwell has a very fine spring in the side of the mountain, a few rods back of his house.

**April 25th.**

Drove with Abie and his wife to the Indian village, and thence to the hot spring. Stopped in the village and took dinner with Mr. MacBeth; received from the County Clerk's office the mortgage from Mr. MacBeth; also authorized him to act as an attorney for me in collecting the rent from my two lots, with houses, during this Summer.

#### **April 26th.**

Rode to the village; had bank book balanced and also left at the bank forty-three shares of stock of Fairview Land and Water Company for safe keeping. Mr. Kerr is to collect dividends, if there be any, on the same. A Mr. McKenzie, a cousin of Mr. Willard, who resides in Los Angeles, 123 came to Abie's this afternoon to make inquiries about the affairs of his cousin, who had recently died there. He is connected with the Young Men's Christian Association. I rode with him to the village and to the cemetery to see where his cousin was buried. We returned to Abie's, and he remained till the next morning.

#### **April 27th.**

Overhauled baggage and papers, putting them in shape to return East. Mr. McKenzie left on his return to Los Angeles this morning. His full name is Stuart McKenzie. Irrigated and attended to various other matters on the place. Abie is working with his team on the road for Mr. Inwall.

#### **April 28th.**

The morning is damp and foggy. I rode to the village for the last time before leaving. Saw Mr. MacBeth, Mr. Andersen, Mr. Parrh, Van Waters, Smith, Dr. Merchant, Kerr and others. Abie and his wife are busy to-day making preparations for their trip to Orange to-morrow. Abie and Mrs. Mead rode round to find some one to take charge of the place during their absence. After seeing several they met Mrs. Hallack and her son, with whom they made a satisfactory arrangement. They engaged board for Lillian at Mr. Edwin Mead's, which is convenient for her to the schoolhouse.

#### **April 29th.**

Left at 5 a.m. for Orange, by way of Riverside. Our wagon was well loaded with provisions for ourselves and feed for the horses during our absence. We drove to the north from Abie's, taking a short cut by the way of Webster's, to the right of the house, passing his copious springs of water. We passed through fields and gates rather uncertainly, but came out about right on Central avenue. We passed the house of Mr. Pico, a Mexican, I believe, which house is situated on an elevated spot. He has a large herd of cattle, some 1,200 head. We then passed a lake of considerable size, and the lime quarries and kilns, where lime is obtained for San Jacinto. Continuing 124 on our way we passed an immense herd of sheep, with shepherd and dogs. They belong to a man in Pleasant Valley, who is called a "greaser," because he is half Indian and half Spanish. Along our route there is very little cultivated soil, but nearly all is used for grazing purposes. We reached Box Springs, on the California Southern Railroad. From here to Riverside much more soil is under cultivation and dwellings are more frequent. It is four or five miles between the places. Soon the fine valley of Riverside, with its trees, buildings and improvements, came in sight. I observed many irrigating ditches. We reached the place about 11 a.m., thirty miles from San Jacinto. We camped here to feed our horses and eat our dinner. After dinner we walked about to see the place, and then continued on our way toward Orange. Our route lay through Magnolia avenue, which is said to be ten miles in length and 100 feet in width, with five rows of trees, one row in the centre and two rows on either side, with two driveways. The next place of any importance which we passed was South Riverside, about sixteen miles from Riverside. It is situated on one of the most beautiful plains I ever saw. It is quite a large place and has grown up within a few months, due to speculation by some land company, which has made quite a success of the enterprise. It has already a fine hotel and thirty houses, and is becoming quite popular. From here we proceeded to a place called Rincon, where we had planned to camp for the night. There was plenty of water and stable room for the horses. We reached this place a little after sundown. We found the overseer of a company in Riverside, which owns a large tract here, who received us in the usual hospitable manner. After giving proper attention to our horses and getting our supper we retired for the night.

**April 30th.**

About sunrise, after a refreshing night's rest, after caring for the horses and getting our breakfast, we started 125 at 8 a.m. I must mention the fact that we found another team and congenial company, who camped with us during the night. The company consisted of two doctors from Riverside, Dr. Ball and Dr. H. L. Macy. Rincon is a place with several hundred acres in vineyards, and has buildings for heating and curing raisins. Eleven thousand boxes of raisins are yearly marketed from this vineyard. As the railroad is being built from Riverside to Orange, and runs right through this vineyard, it has been laid out in town lots, which are put at high prices. Going on from this place, in sight of the Santa Ana River, which is graded on one side, our road lay on the other. It was narrow and cut through the sides of the mountains, too narrow for two carriages to pass. Occasionally turnouts have been made. The most careful driving was necessary in order to avoid accident. Within eight or nine miles of Orange we came to a large ditch leading from the river to supply the valley with water for irrigating. In this valley are the towns of Orange and Santa Ana. The water flows very slowly and steadily in this ditch. It is about twelve feet wide. Before reaching Orange we camped beside this ditch at a spot where there was plenty of grass for the horses, while we took dinner. This spot is about five miles out of the town. From here on we saw extensive vineyards along this ditch. We reached Orange about 2 p.m. After some inquiry we found the place of Clarence Mead's employer. Seeing a man at work in the fields, Abie left the carriage and found it to be Clarence. In the mean time I went in and saw Mr. Taft and his son, and was much pleased with the family and their place. Mrs. Mead, not wishing to wait, drove on to the Meads' place, about two miles distant. After spending a short time at Mr. Taft's, he took me down to the Meads' in his carriage, Clarence and Abie walking down. We found the Meads pleasantly situated, having about fifteen acres of ground under 126 good cultivation, mostly in vineyard and orange trees. Their place is three miles from the centre of the town, in a section of well-improved land, cut up into fifteen and twenty acre tracts, which were laid out mostly in vineyards and orange orchards, well supplied with water and free from frost.

### **May 1st. Sunday.**

A fine, clear morning. Did not go to church, but rode about the country most of the day with Abie and Clarence, not, however, without some hesitation. In the morning we drove to the east, up a cañon, to an oak grove about eight miles distant, said to be a place much resorted to by picnic parties. In the afternoon we drove to Orange village.

#### **May 2d.**

We rode to Orange, Santa Ana and Tustin City, all fine, large villages. Santa Ana is the largest. The distance from Orange to Tustin is about nine miles. The whole country through Tustin City, which we passed, is under a very high state of cultivation, largely covered with orange orchards and vineyards. The orange trees are somewhat damaged in places by a scale bug. Occasionally a grape stand dies from what some call sour sap. An immense amount of capital has evidently been invested in the grape and orange culture in Southern California. Though the thermometer rose to 88 degrees, the weather was not at all oppressive.

#### **May 3d.**

Spent the forenoon on the Meads' place. David was busy trimming the dead branches from the Orange trees, and Theodore was drawing off the brush. There were about 200 orange, 2 lemon, 200 apricot, about 30 English walnut, some peach and apple trees. In the afternoon we left on our return to Riverside, over the same route by which we came. Clarence goes back with us for a week's visit with Abie at San Jacinto. Left Orange at 1.30 p.m. We proceeded on our way without any incident of special interest. Reached Rincon, the place where we stopped before, a little after sundown. After getting 127 our supper in a dry sluiceway, we retired for the night.

#### **May 4th.**

Arose before the sun and prepared our morning meal. One of our horses becoming somewhat ill, we had to proceed from Rincon at a slow rate, so that it took from 5 a.m. till 11 a.m. to travel eighteen miles. On entering the village we called on one of the doctors whom we met on our trip out. He invited us in, and as we could not stop, he picked us some oranges from his orchard and put them in

the carriage. Abie put up his horses in a livery stable, and we took our dinner at the Rowell Hotel. I then hunted around and found a ticket agent, who was agent for an excursion party to start from Los Angeles. From him I bought a ticket through to New York for \$62.50. After bidding good-bye to Abie and Mrs. Mead and to Clarence, I started on the train at 1.40 p.m. We reached Colton at 2.15 and had to wait till 4 p.m. for the train on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Left Colton for Los Angeles, passing through Ontario and several other fine villages until we reached Los Angeles at 7 p.m. After waiting here about an hour we left for Sacramento via the Southern Pacific Railroad. There being a large number of passengers on the train, there was some difficulty in finding berths, but all were finally accommodated.

### **May 5th.**

Reached Tulare about 9 a.m. The train was one hour behind time. The train consisted of fourteen cars. We stopped here for breakfast. I unexpectedly met a Mr. Sayers and wife, from San Jacinto, with whom I was acquainted, and was much pleased to find them. They were going back to their former home in Ohio for a visit. Passed Merced about noon. The car I was in was sleeper 26, Southern Pacific Railroad. The train stopped at Lathrop at 3.30 p.m. for dinner. Reached Sacramento at 6 p.m. and left at 7 p.m. I retired at 9 p.m.

### **May 6th.**

Stopped for dinner at Humboldt. There is some 128 sprinkle of rain and considerable snow is seen on the mountains. Stopped for supper at Reno, Nev.

### **May 7th.**

Came in view of the north end of Salt Lake about sunrise. Arranged baggage for the change of cars at Ogden, from the Central Pacific to the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Our party was made up of over 100, whose object was sightseeing and enjoyment on their excursion. They were kind and helpful toward each other. Reached Ogden at 9 a.m. We had to wait about two hours to make up a train, on account of the extra number of passengers. We left for Salt Lake City at 11 a.m.

After reaching Salt Lake City we took a walk around. I observed a large concourse of people going through the gates up to the Mormons' Winter Temple. I passed along in with the crowd. I found the building packed with men, women and children. It appeared to be an annual church business meeting. Reports were made for different branches and officers appointed for the various wards and institutions of the church, Sabbath-school teachers, missionaries, etc., to the number of two or three hundred. The nominations were made by the leading members beforehand. No one nominated made any objection to serving, and no remarks were made on the nominations. The presiding officer always led the voting, which was done by uplifted hands, and there was no opposing. Women and children appeared to vote fully as much as men. The services were quite lengthy, interspersed by singing and prayer, and an address by their delegate to Congress, who said that the acts of Congress directed against them did not amount to anything. He gave an account of an interview with the President, in which the President said he did not approve of all that Congress had done. He was satisfied that the President was well disposed toward them. Left at 7.30 p.m. for Denver. We ran through the night and reached Greene River at 6 a.m.

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#### **May 8th. Sunday.**

Stopped at this place forty-five minutes for breakfast, having run 190 miles during the night, from Salt Lake City. My watch in California was three and one-half hours behind San Francisco time, but at this place it is only two and one-quarter hours behind. We reached Grand Junction about 12 midnight, 425 miles from Denver. Left at 7 a.m. We averaged eighteen miles an hour without stops. Our road followed the Grand River for a long distance. Passed Montrose in going up the Grand Cañon. Much snow on the mountains. At 4.45 p.m. we are passing through the Black Cañon, sixteen miles in length. It is very grand and inspiring. We now have sixteen miles in which to ascend a mountain at a grade of between 200 and 300 feet to the mile, accomplishing it in a zig-zag course. There are two engines and only four cars. Stopped at Salida at 10 p.m., where we remained until next morning.

#### **May 9th.**

Left this place at 7 a.m. for Denver. The descent of the mountain was 3,808 feet in twenty-five miles. The party consists of 120 persons, mostly from Riverside and Pasadena. Crossed a bridge where the cars had stopped for thirty minutes to permit the passengers to get out and walk across, to see the most grand and beautiful scenery in the world. Rocks on either side rising perpendicularly for 500 feet, some even projecting over our heads, with space between them only for the Arkansas River and a narrow gauge road. The distance through the canon is ten miles, and the name of the canon is the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas. After emerging from the canon we came out to a place called Cañon City. Noticed the State prison at the place. Here the train stopped by the side of three celebrated mineral springs, to give the company an opportunity to get out and drink of the water. I drank nearly three cups of it, and found the taste to resemble that of some of the springs at Saratoga. Snow is plenty on many of the mountains. 130 Vegetation is not yet much advanced. Cattle are poor. I presume that forage has been scarce and that they have passed through a hard Winter. We passed through Pueblo. Observed that the Santa Fé is building a parallel road from Pueblo to Denver, a distance of 114 miles. The best part of Colorado, which I have seen, lies between Cañon City and Pueblo. I saw also some fine stone quarries. Reached Denver at 6 p.m. Changed from the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Left at 10 p.m. for Chicago.

### **May 10th.**

Passed many flourishing towns in Nebraska, on what was once called a barren desert. The Pacific and Western States appear to produce considerable coal. Observed a large increase in villages, both in size and numbers, since I passed through four years ago. Reached the Missouri River at about 7 p.m. Crossed over and stopped at the station called Pacific Junction. Here I changed a ticket from Chicago to New York. Train left for Chicago in about thirty minutes. Retired early. Train is somewhat behind time, and runs very fast, forty-five or fifty miles per hour.

### **May 11th.**

Reached Bennington at an early hour. After a short stop we crossed the Mississippi River. The country looks charming, as we pass along, from its freshness and luxuriance of vegetation. Reached Chicago at 2 p.m. Here the excursion party broke up and dispersed in different directions. We had to wait here till 6 p.m. for our train on the Lake Shore & New York Central Railroad, giving us six hours for going about the city. We left at 6 p.m. and reached Toledo at 5 a.m.

### **May 12th.**

Passed through the "Western Reserve," or Northern Ohio. It has the appearance of a rich, thrifty section. Although I have had a favorable opinion of Northern Ohio, still it exceeded my expectations. We are passing through fine villages and cities. Arrived at Buffalo at 4 p.m. Immediately made my way to the New York Central cars, which left at 4.20 p.m. Reached New York city at 6 a.m.

### **May 13th.**

Took the 8 a.m. train on the New Haven Railroad, and reached home after 9 a.m. Busy throughout the day.

### **ADDENDA.**

**Some facts that fell in my way while on the ship Colon, from New York to Aspinwall, not embraced in my daily diary, the recital of which may not be without interest, though not found in their proper order.**

The name of the captain of the ship Colon is Charles C. Lima. I am informed that he is a native of Brazil. I learned in conversation with him that he has followed the sea forty years, and is 57 years old. He says that the responsibility resting on him is such that he seldom gets good, sound sleep on shipboard, but when he gets on shore and at home, he sleeps through forty-eight hours. In two or three years he intends to leave the sea. He says that at the present time there are very few sailors of American birth; they go into other occupations. Sailors are now made up from almost all other

nationalities, and very few of the boys on the United States training ships follow the sea after they leave the ship.

The first officer's name is Charles W. Scott. He is a young man but 26 years old. Though so young, very few of any age would fill his position with such credit and ability. He is a person of great physical strength and activity. That he should have risen from the position of a common sailor to that which he now holds shows the superiority of his character.

Thomas Wright, the chief engineer, has some peculiar facts in his history. He is 47 years old. Born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, he was a neighbor of Henry A. Wise, with 132 whom his father was on intimate terms of friendship, both being lawyers. He is the youngest of thirteen sons, all of whom are still living. They all, except himself, were in the Confederate army, seven being sharpshooters. He having married in the North, and living there at the time of the Rebellion, went into the Union service. He says he was licensed chief engineer at an age younger than any person ever licensed before or since; that he had not a hair on his face, but as he could answer every question the old engineers could put to him, they had to give him a license. He works out very minutely everything connected with the engineering department. The revolutions of the screw of the Colon in going from New York to Aspinwall were ten and one-tenth per minute. He computes the weight of coal it takes to generate a pound of steam, and also the difference in expense between the use of hard and soft coal, and the difference in expense in running at different rates of speed.

More about the Isthmus. In passing across the Isthmus on the Panama Railroad, few birds or animals of any kind are visible from the cars. We heard a parrot or two chattering in the thicket. I am told that they keep at some distance from the road. About a mile from the road, on either side, parrots and birds are numerous, and are of beautiful plumage and voice. Deer, also monkeys, abound in great numbers. The undergrowth is so dense and thick it is quite difficult to capture them, as one can travel only in the beaten paths. A class of human beings, but little in advance of the beasts, are seen in great numbers on either side of the line of the road. They come in crowds to work on the canal. The death rate is said to be large, especially so with the French population, and greater in Panama than in Aspinwall. The yellow fever always exists in the former place.

**APPENDIX. The following articles contain some Facts of Historical Interest. Feb. 26, 1779-1879.**

**CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION of the RIDE OF GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM, at GREENWICH, CONN. ADDRESS OF MR. SOLOMON MEAD.**

“Greenwich in the Revolution,” was the toast to which Solomon Mead, Esq., responded:

On the 20th day of August, 1824, Put's Hill was crowded with people. A few of the noble men who participated in the struggle for independence were then still among us and were present on that memorable occasion. The people came together to honor these patriots of the Revolution, and especially one who was to be present on that day, the true friend of our country in the days of its weakness and peril, who, like Washington and Putnam, was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of the people—Gen. Lafayette. After some waiting, he reached the hill, escorted by a military guard of honor, and met his 134 companions in arms. Their greetings were of the most cordial and tender character, while the air was resonant with the roar of cannon, the ringing of bells and the applause of the multitude. These Revolutionary worthies then, with uncovered heads, walked down the hill, passing under an elegant triumphant arch which was erected over the road excavated through the rock, and beautifully decorated by the ladies with appropriate mottoes, evergreens and flowers. At the close of the reception Gen. Lafayette went on to Stamford, escorted by a local military company known as the “Light Horse Troop,” commanded by officers, some of whom are still living among us.

The last of those who were in active life during the war of independence have long since passed away. But the names of such patriots as Abraham Mead, who was a captain in the War of the Revolution, and Isaac Lewis, D. D., who was a chaplain, also Richard Mead, Zaccheus Mead, Andrew Mead, Humphrey Denton, Job Lyon and others are worthy of honorable mention. With most of these men I was personally acquainted, and well do I remember many of their recitals of the transactons of those trying times. This town, being situated, as it was, between the lines of the contending forces, probably suffered more than any other town in the State. Law afforded

no protection for life or property. Some fled with their families to distant towns for safety; some remained to protect their homes as best they could; others, possessing no high degree of patriotism, resorted to the expedient of “buying their peace,” as it was then termed, paying the Tories a stipulated price on condition that they might remain in their homes unmolested in person and property; while others, devoid of patriotism and tempted by the love of British gold, gave aid and comfort to the enemy by robbing and pillaging. To accomplish their purposes they even entered the homes of their neighbors and stripped them of their contents, drove off 135 their cattle and live stock, and whoever opposed them in this work did it at the peril of their lives. Families were under the necessity of burying their provisions in the ground, or of secreting them in some other way, and of leaving their grain in the straw, unthreshed, for years, using only as immediate necessity required. Many worthy citizens were murdered by these Tories, others were taken prisoners and driven like cattle to New York city, where they were incarcerated in the “Old Sugar House,” a prison notorious in history on account of the sufferings experienced by its inmates and the great number of deaths that occurred within its walls. Such were the dangers that some of our people, at the approach of darkness, would leave their houses and resort to some secret place in the fields or woods, and there spend the night. Still amid these trying times a majority of the 2,000 people, or nearly that number, who then were the inhabitants of the town, either openly or at heart, were true to the cause of independence. And the fact is an impressive one, that the frowns of Providence with very marked significance followed these Tories in after life, and to-day but very few of their descendants are to be found. At the close of these eight years in which such devastation and ruin ravaged the town but little remained but the bare earth.

It must have taken a quarter of a century to restore the improvements and prosperity that existed before the war. Could those who submitted to toil, privation, and even death, to lay the foundation of our prosperity, return to-day, with what surprise and delight would they witness the change that has taken place since those dark days! Truly, they would not know the place but from the few remaining landmarks, like Put's Hill, Long Island, and the beautiful Sound that lies between. If in the past one hundred years such great changes have taken place, who of us, to-day, is able to predict the changes and 136 improvements that would greet our sight if we might be permitted to

return to this spot one hundred years hence? Who can say but that we might find our dwellings, public buildings and other superstructures of the most solid and most durable material, as slate, concrete, brick, granite and iron; our already commodious harbor sufficiently deepened to float our largest vessels, with ample wharves lining the shore from its point to its head; the roads of the town macadamized; numerous railroads running in different directions; our rivers dotted with numerous manufactories; our village become “a beautiful city, set on a hill, whose light could not be hid,” clasping friendly hands with the great city of New York across the Byram River. But, great as these material changes might be, who can say but that far greater and vastly more important changes might be witnessed in the condition of the political, moral and religious world? Who can say but that the bright and long hoped for period shall have then come when truth, righteousness and peace shall have overspread the whole earth, and caused the rancor and turmoil of the centuries to disappear through the ameliorating power and influence of truth and benevolence, elevating man to a position much nearer his primeval state in honor, dignity and happiness?

**Speech at the 177th Annual Meeting of the Second Congregational Church, January 10th, 1893.**

After the roll call the Rev. Mr. Hall, as chairman of the evening, said that Mr. Solomon Mead would make a speech; also that there were five persons on the roll who had been members of this church since 1828, and one of this number was Mr. Solomon Mead. Mr. Hall called upon him to give some 137 reminiscences of the former days, which he did. His speech was listened to with rapt attention, and was the feature of the evening, and it was so interesting that we print it in full, as follows:

“Some of the earliest recollections of my childhood are of seeing Dr. Isaac Lewis, Sr., standing in the pulpit, with his spectacles pushed back on his forehead, as they now appear in his likeness in the lecture room of this church. He was the pastor of this church thirty-two years, and settled October 18, 1786, and was dismissed December 1, 1818. Of Dr. Lewis and his family I have many precious recollections. He was a person of commanding presence, six feet in height, well proportioned, a strong man physically, mentally and morally; a wise counsellor and leader. A circumstance which

shows very clearly the high standing of Dr. Lewis in the Christian and literary world is that, a vacancy occurring in the presidency of Yale College, the corporation, in looking for a man to fill that position, fixed their choice on either Dr. Lewis or Dr. Timothy Dwight. At the final election by the Fellows, Mr. Dwight received one more vote than Dr. Lewis, upon which Dr. Lewis moved to make the choice unanimous, which was done.

“At that period French infidelity was rapidly spreading in this country, probably owing much to the friendly aid which that nation gave us in our struggle for national independence. Even a majority of the students in Yale College were said to have become avowed infidels. And it needed a man to be at its head of the most commanding ability and influence.

“The practice of warming churches was not then adopted. I have often seen a lady pass her foot-stove to her neighbor in an adjoining pew, and complaints about a cold house were seldom heard. One of the attendants, a Mr. Halstead, of Rye, remarked that he was never hungry nor cold when hearing Dr. Lewis preach. Many of the congregation came long distances 138 to church. From Quaker Ridge, now called North Greenwich, Round Hill and Rye, six and nine miles, over poor roads, in open wagons, before wagon springs were invented; others came on horseback, often two persons on one horse, the wife riding behind her husband. When they reached the church, each had a post to hitch his horse to. These posts were arranged by the side of a stone fence on the street. Rocks were plenty for them to alight on from their horses. Many horses had to stand hitched to their posts for about five hours, exposed to cold and storms. Cold Winters, then, and no sheds. The church services, then as now, commenced at 10.30 in the morning and closed at 2.30 in the afternoon, with one hour intermission at noon, giving the minister time to visit his home and partake of some refreshments before his afternoon labors commenced.

“At that day Christian people, alarmed at the progress infidelity was making, and fearing that a time might come when the Gospel ministry could not be supported, resorted to a plan of raising money by subscription, such money to be invested and held as a permanent fund, the income from which should ever after be applied to that purpose. This is the origin of the present society's fund of about \$3,000. This was before the day of Sabbath-schools, but the Bible was daily read and

prayer offered in most all Christian homes. The Assemblies Catechism was taught in families and in the public schools. In the school that I attended, the first lesson on Monday mornings was from the catechism. The teacher, being a pious man, would make remarks on the lesson, which made a strong and abiding impression on my mind. A visit from the minister was expected to the school some time each year.

“All the public religious services held at that day were those on the Sabbath. The preparatory lecture on Friday, the missionary concert of prayer held on the first Monday afternoon 139 in each month, and on fast and Thanksgiving days. Owing to the great disorders which arose toward the close of the great awakening in New England in 1740, a strong prejudice against evening meetings arose throughout New England—so much so that for fifty or sixty years evening meetings were not held, and were not resumed again till near the close of Dr. Lewis' ministry.

“Standing was the position during prayer time. The time of holding the annual society's meeting was changed from Monday to Tuesday, to give place to the monthly concert of prayer.

“At that day, with many families, the Sabbath commenced on Saturday at sundown. Many objected to the name Sunday being applied to the Christian Sabbath, or Lord's Day, because on that day the heathen worshiped the sun, and that gave the day its name.

“In looking over the way in which the Lord has led this church, let us, with devout gratitude and full purpose of heart, resolve, the Lord helping us, that we will transmit a still richer inheritance to who shall come after us.”

**(Greenwich Graphic, 1896.) HE SAW LAFAYETTE.**

**Mr. Solomon Mead Tells the Graphic That He Was at Put's Hill in 1824.**

The article in last week's Graphic about Gen. Lafayette's visit to Greenwich in 1824 was read with a good deal of interest, judging from the letters sent to the Graphic, and one or two old inhabitants

wrote that they remembered this noted event. It was a gala day for Greenwich, and Gen. Lafayette was welcomed with great enthusiasm all along the line of march.

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Mr. Solomon Mead was one of those who saw him, and he said, in an interview with the Graphic, that he remembered the day well.

“I was but a lad,” he said, “about sixteen years of age. I stood upon Put's Hill and saw him pass down.

“He came in a coach from the city, accompanied by soldiers. He alighted at the top of Put's Hill, and his son Washington was with him; he was named after Gen. Washington. As I remember them both, Gen. Lafayette was a tall man, of splendid figure, perhaps a little spare; his son, Washington, was a stocky, well-built man.

“They both alighted from the coach and held an informal reception at the top of the hill, many people going up to them and shaking hands.

“The Rev. Isaac Lewis, and his son, Rev. Isaac Lewis, Jr., walked down the hill with them, the father with Gen. Lafayette and the son with Washington Lafayette. All uncovered their heads and walked hand in hand. At the bottom of the hill the General and his son stepped into the coach again and passed on to Stamford.

“A company of artillery came as an escort, and, instead of taking down the bars leading into the lot on the south side of the road, they pulled down the stone wall, and, planting their cannon on the top of the hill where the church stood, and where the British stopped to see Putnam at the bottom of the famous stone steps, they fired a salute. At the same time the bell on the Congregational Church rang out long and loud in honor of the General. There was quite a crowd on the hill, and the arch was beautifully decorated with flowers. This event was impressed vividly on my mind, for I was but a boy, but I remember it well.

“It was a great event for Greenwich, and I think that almost everybody that could get out, came to the hill to welcome the General. Of course, Greenwich didn't have so many inhabitants as it has today.

“The Rev. Isaac Lewis had carried a gun and was a soldier in the war, and was a fitting man to accompany Gen. Lafayette down the hill. He was pastor at the Congregational Church, and his son was also a minister at that church a few years later.”

**Greenwich, Conn., April 17th, 1885.**

*My dear daughter Hannah:*

For some time past I have thought of writing to you.

This life to each one is a school, where the discipline is intended to bring its learners into harmony and sympathy with the great Master and Teacher, and happy will it be for those who, under its discipline, are brought into the right attitude in their relations to God. Then their true and highest interests are all secure and in accord with His laws and government. All things are theirs and shall conspire for their best good. They always have reason to be happy and joyful, whatever their outward condition may be. Their highest ambition and delight should be to have some humble part in gratefully bearing forward that kingdom which brings peace and righteousness wherever it touches the hearts and lives of men. My thoughts sometimes run back to your earliest days. We were then living in the old house.

Of the old house and its surroundings you may not have any very distinct recollections. I will attempt to give some description. Its style was that of houses built about a century and a half ago, but few of which now remain. The house sold by the Sniffin estate to the Presbyterian Society is one. Before many years they will probably be sought as rare curiosities, so few of them will remain.

This house stood in the southeast corner of our present plot of ground, fronting the south and the Long Island Sound, and about thirty-five feet from the parsonage fence. The east end was about six

feet from the street fence; the garden lay west 142 of it, coming quite down to the end of the house. The north line was about where the south drive comes into the yard. The well was about twenty-five feet north from the outside kitchen door, with a house over it, and an urn on its top; there was a large drum overhead, winding up the rope, to draw water by, so it was somewhat stylish. There were two small gates, one in the north yard and one in the south. The gates were kept closed by chains and weights. The south gate had an arched frame over the top of it. Near the northwest corner of the house was a stone milkhouse, flagged bottom, with a step down into it. North of that an old smokehouse; next north was the barnyard, then the barn north of that, fronting south, both on the line of the street, and a pair of bars for the entrance from the street. The maple tree in the street, which stood against the barn, is considerably smaller than the other trees in the same row.

The house, yard and barn took up the whole of the front to within a few rods of Seaman's line. The buildings and fences were all old and poor. Then there was a lot of about three acres extending back to Seaman's orchard, with here and there a few big old apple trees scattered about. The land was filled with rocks, both large and small, which, when taken out, I suppose would more than cover the entire surface of the lot.

I bought the place of the Seymour heirs, on December 16, 1830. It consisted of land on both sides of the highway to the amount of about sixteen acres. I sold the land on the east side, keeping about six acres on the west side of the road, on which I commenced building the stone house we now live in in the year 1858.

But to return from this digression. Your first Winter was spent in the old house, and a cold one it was, too. Several times in the course of each night I arose, and, after warming milk over a nursery lamp, gave it to you from a bottle, which you enjoyed 143 quite decidedly. I was then favorably struck with one thing about you, which made an indelible impression on my mind and heart. There was a bright and intelligent expression of your eyes and countenance, the equal of which I had never before witnessed, nor have I since that time seen its equal in any other person. It was to me an indication of great promise for your future life.

As time passed on, you continued healthy, growing and improving, both physically and mentally, becoming steadily more and more attractive and interesting. Those were inspiring, happy days. In the course of human events a name had to be chosen for you. There was only one name that I could entertain the thought of. Even though there had been many persons in the town by the name of Hannah, I could not have given you any other but that of my departed mother. And here I cannot refrain from speaking of her life. Her Christian character, for beauty and symmetry or for modesty, meekness, gratitude and benevolence, is rarely equaled by any person. Her conviction of unworthiness, as a sinner, was deep, but her faith in Christ was firm, and the key to her whole life. Cheerful and happy, without worry or apprehension, trusting with unswaying confidence in an ever overruling Providence, living the life of a true child of God, she was uniformly the most fearless person that I have ever known; even in death, with an unclouded intellect, she was no less fearless and cheerful than in life. Her life shone with all the traits of the true Christian, which was exemplified still more beautifully in her death. She was fully ripe for the heavenly world. She feared only evil beings, as I have heard her frequently remark. The scenes of lawlessness and robbery which she witnessed during the Revolutionary War, in this town, gave her a greater detestation of the character and deeds of wicked beings. She was then about twelve years of age. I make this tribute to my mother, knowing that what I have said is but just and true, from long, intimate, personal acquaintance in everyday life. I have a profound sense of the worth of such a character.

As time in its ceaseless course brought you from one stage of childhood to another, and finally to womanhood, I saw developing in you many characteristics of my glorified mother. This above all things else made you doubly precious to me. Consequently, I have been especially careful and interested in whatever might affect your future well-being, progress and usefulness in the world. And now my advice to you is that you evince, to all you come in contact with, that with you religion is no superficial thing, that it springs from the heart, and is your life—your being.

Actions and demeanor often have far more potent influence than words. We probably little realize the effect of this upon others. Even our walk, the tone of our voice, the expression of our eyes and

countenance, as we meet persons in different ways, or pass them in our walk on the streets, may lift them to a higher plane and send to them cheer and joy. But this, in order to be effectual, must spring spontaneously from a kind, warm, benevolent heart.

Yours affectionately,

SOLOMON MEAD.